Vietnam Courier

A MONTHLY REVIEW No. 8 — 1987

- Ever-strengthened Friendship and Cooperation
- Renovation of Cadre Work
- Small-Scale Industry and Handicrafts in Vietnam
- Environmental Problems in Vietnam
- Kampuchea: 1987

ALL-ROUND VIETNAM-SOVIET COOPERATION

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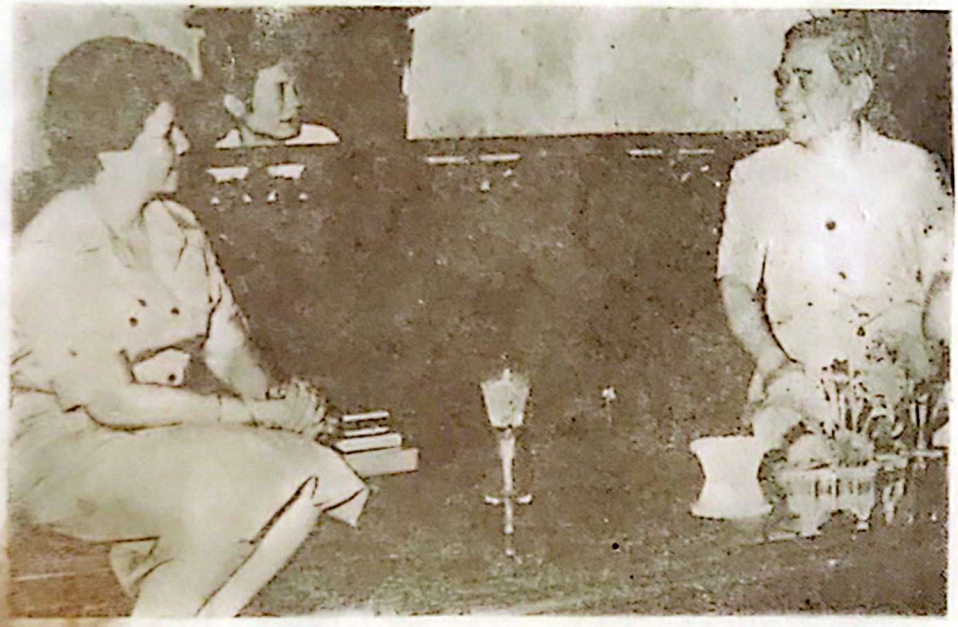
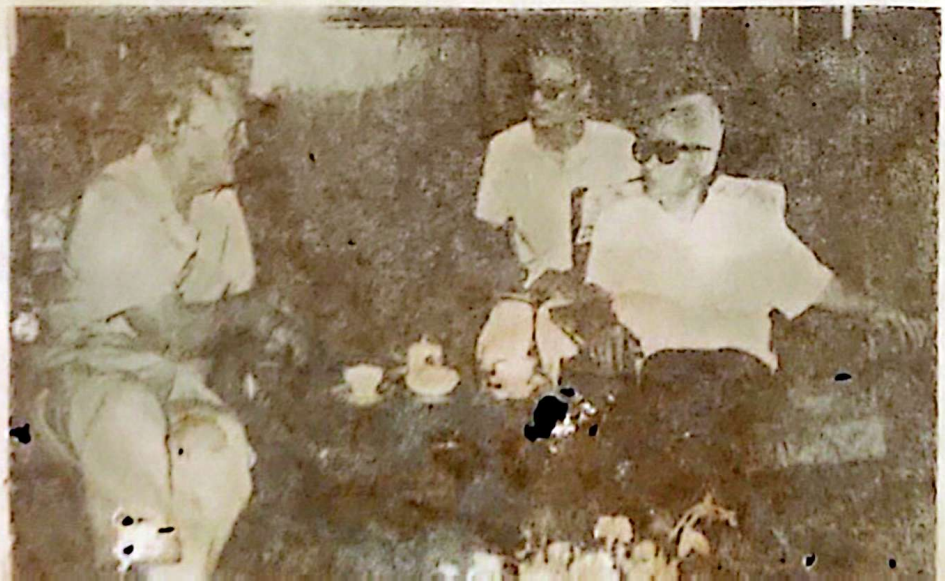
DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES

- *Vo Van Kiet, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, receiving Chea Chanto, alternate member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and Planning Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. (21 April 1987)*



- *CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, receiving Ensa Peleger Rin Mohammad, head of the Havana Bureau of the Cuban national news agency AIN. (2 May 1987)*



- *Pham Van Dong, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, receiving Thomas Uren, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Administrative Services in the Australian Government and President of the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Society. (4 May 1987)*

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Vidya Munsi, head of the Women's International Democratic Federation, handing presents to the congress.

Photo: VU DIEU

THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAMESE WOMEN

The Sixth National Congress of the Vietnamese Women was held in Hanoi on 19 and 20 May 1987. It was attended by more than 1,000 delegates including 700 full-fledged ones,, who represent over 11 million women throughout the country. Party and State leaders Truong-Chinh, Pham Van Dong, Nguyen Duc Tam and Nguyen Huu Tho were present and addressed the Congress.

Reviewing the activities of the Vietnamese women's movement since the Fifth Congress in 1982, the Congress emphasized the important role of women and the achievements scored by the Vietnam Women's Union in the past five years.

The Congress affirmed the determination to renovate both the content and the mode of activity of the Vietnam Women's Union. The orientation and tasks of the women's movement and the mass work of the Union at all levels in the 1987-1990 period have been laid down as follows: to push up the "New women building and defending the Motherland" movement; to contribute to the implementation of the three major economic programmes on food and foodstuffs, consumer goods and export goods; to take part in the working out of laws and policies related to women and children; to supervise and control the implementation thereof; to actively participate in the world women's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The Congress also adopted a draft of amended Statute of the Union, and elected a 98-member Executive Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Union, Mrs Nguyen Thi Dinh was re-elected its President.

On behalf of the Council of State, Vice-President Huynh Tan Phat awarded the Independence Order, Third Class, to women's movements in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Hai Phong, and the provinces of Hai Hung and Thai Binh.

On the same occasion, Mrs Mean Sam An, President of the Association of Revolutionary Women of Kampuchea, who attended the Congress, was mandated by the Council of State of Kampuchea to award the Friendship Order to the Vietnam Women's Union for its all-sided assistance to its Kampuchean counterpart.

KIEN AN

SYMPOSIUM ON THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

THE IMPACT OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION IN VIETNAM AND THE ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAMESE MUSEUMS

On 22 May, a symposium on the theme "The Impact of the October Revolution in Vietnam and the Activities of Vietnamese Museums" was held in Hanoi by the Vietnam Museum of the Revolution. This was the first activity of the cultural services in response to the CPV Political Bureau's resolution on the celebration in Vietnam of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The symposium was attended by many researchers, professors, university lecturers and cadres from municipal and provincial museums and from the Army museum.

Following Minister of Culture Tran Van Phac's opening speech, 19 scientific papers out of the 50 papers sent to the organizing committee were read. In his address, A. M. Sevsenko, First Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam, spoke about the embodiment of the Leninist thinking over the past 70 years since the October Revolution.

The Vietnam Museum of the Revolution is urgently completing preparations for a mobile exhibition on the October Revolution to be put on display in various localities in Vietnam on this occasion.

VAN HOA

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The Preparatory work for this issue was completed on 15 June 1987.

Front Cover: Newly - built blocks of flats in the south-western part of Hanoi.

Photo: DO HUAN

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GENERAL SECRETARY NGUYEN VAN LINH RECEIVED VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

On 28 May, Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the CC of the CPV cordially received at the Presidential Palace the bishops attending the eighth session of the Vietnamese Episcopal Council.

Also present on this occasion was Phan Minh Tanh, member of the Party Central Committee, Head of the Central Commission for Work among the People, representative of the Government Commission for Religion.

Cardinal Trinh Van Can, Chairman of the Vietnamese Episcopal Council, on behalf of the Council and of the Vietnamese Catholics, expressed his great honour to meet and greet General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh; he pointed out that, with the help of the Government Commission for Religion, the eighth session of the Vietnamese Episcopal Council had been held in Hanoi with success.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh conveyed the cordial greetings of the Party and Government to the bishops, reverend fathers and all Vietnamese Catholics. He commended their positive contributions to national construction and defence. Many young Catholics have enlisted in the army and fought valiantly, a number have laid down their lives. Many reverend fathers have been elected to the National Assembly and the People's Councils at various levels. Many collective farms and small industry and handicraft cooperatives of Catholic believers have become advanced models. All this has evidenced the Vietnamese Catholics' tradition of respect for God and love for the country. General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh stressed: The unswerving policy of the Vietnamese Party and State has always been to respect freedom of belief. However, due to the standards of cadres and also to the prejudices of some people, there have been here and there shortcomings in the implementation of the policy on religion. The Party organizations and administrations at various echelons must resolutely correct these shortcomings so as to ensure good implementation thereof. On the other hand, everybody must be vigilant against the misuse of religion to harm the interests of the country.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed the wish that in its religious activities, the Episcopal Council would take practical actions to mobilize the Catholics in production work and the promotion of a new life in various dioceses, thereby joining the rest of the people in national construction and defence.

(Continued on page 9)

PANORAMA ● PANORAMA

THE BULGARIA–VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION IS TEN YEARS OLD

Ten years ago, on 25 May 1977, the Bulgaria - Vietnam Friendship Association was set up in Sofia, capital of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. It continued the historical mission of the Bulgarian Commission for Solidarity with Vietnam established during the years of Vietnam's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Following our people's total victory over the US imperialist aggressors and the reunification of our country, this development had a deep significance. It was a vivid expression of fraternal friendship, militant solidarity and multifaceted cooperation between the two peoples of Vietnam and Bulgaria.

The two peoples have been very proud of their leaders — President Ho Chi Minh and President Gheorghi Dimitrov — who had laid the foundations for this friendship since the early days of the revolution in the two countries, and who had painstakingly cultivated it.

Over the past ten years, the Bulgaria - Vietnam Friendship Association has made every effort to carry out the principled motto put forth by the Communist Party of Bulgaria: "Solidarity with and support for Vietnam are the obligation and conscience of each and every Bulgarian citizen". Together with other mass organizations and government services, it has promoted a broad movement of support for Vietnam throughout the country.

In the past ten years, many Vietnamese have come to work in Bulgaria. The Bulgaria - Vietnam Friendship Association has had many initiatives to organize in coordination with production establishments the training of Vietnamese workers; to help organize their material and cultural life while introducing the Bulgarian people's practices and customs.

Besides the Central Executive Committee, there are many branches in various localities, especially in factories, farms, enterprises, schools, and so on. Many branches have made active contributions to the strengthening of the solidarity and cooperation between cadres and workers of Bulgaria and Vietnam.

NGUYEN VINH

THE 16th BACH DANG SWIMMING COMPETITION

In the summer of 1970, for the first time, an all-north Vietnam long-distance swimming competition was organized on a stretch of the Bach Dang river where it is about to empty into the East Sea. It was the scene of a major naval victory by the Vietnamese army and people over an aggressor army of feudal China in the 10th century.

After two years' interruption owing to war conditions the event was again held in 1973 and since then has become a tradition known under the name of Bach Dang although competitions were later organized in many other places, in Ha Nam Ninh, Hai Hung, Thanh Hoa, Binh Tri Thien, Hanoi, Ha Son Binh, Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Bac, Quang Nam - Da Nang, Nghia Binh...

In 1976, after the country was reunified, the 5th Bach Dang was an all-Vietnam long-distance swimming competition, in which 162 swimmers of both sexes from 22 teams competed on the Perfume River crossing Hue City.

On 5 June last, the 16th competition was held at Quy Nhon on the coast, attended by 12 teams (men and women) from various provinces, cities, and branches of activity with 24 men swimming 4,000m and 23 women competing over 3,000 metres.

The competition ended with the brilliant victory of the Binh Tri Thien swimmers. Following are the results:

Men: — First: Nguyen Van Sang (Binh Tri Thien); second: Pham Van Hoa (Thanh Hoa); third: Nguyen Nhu Thanh (Thai Binh).

Men's teams — First: Binh Tri Thien; second: Thai Binh; third: Hanoi.

Women — First: Hoang Thi Thanh (Binh Tri Thien); second: Quach Thanh Hang (Hanoi); third: Pham Thi Hoa (Thai Binh).

Women's teams — First: Binh Tri Thien; second: Thai Binh; third: Hanoi.

THANG TAM

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VIETNAM – NEW ENCOUNTER OF INTERNATIONAL GRAPHIC ARTS TALENTS

The International Triennal exhibition of Painting and Graphic Arts under the signboard of "For Peace and Socialism" was recently opened in Hanoi.

The exhibition was organized at the Museum of Fine Arts under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and the Vietnam Plastic Art Workers' Association. On display were 265 works (112 paintings and 153 graphic art works of 160 artists from nine countries — Vietnam, the USSR, Laos, Kampuchea, the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, which have signed cooperation agreements on periodical exhibitions of paintings. On an average, each country exhibited 30 paintings or graphic art works. Vietnam, the host country, displayed 49 works (33 paintings and 16 graphic art works) selected from 300 works sent by artists throughout the country. The oldest artist at this exhibition was Vietnamese painter Cong Van Trung, over 80 years old.

At this exhibition, with different technical materials and different genres, the artists pointed out different subjects as varied as human life itself. They put together outstanding approaches and voices in the process of artistic exchanges in the socialist community. The exhibition has shown that socialist art is very humane and closely linked to national traditions. The common aspirations of each person, each nation regarding happiness, love, peace, nature, youth and labour have been expressed in many works.

After nearly two months' display, the International Art Jury comprising 11 members (three from Vietnam and one from each of the eight other countries) decided to confer nine official prizes to the following works:

1. *The Ancient Dance*, lacquer painting by Nguyen Tu Nghiem (Vietnam)
2. *The Young Mother*, oil painting by woman painter Liela Dase (USSR)
3. *The Plain of Jars*, oil painting by May Chandavong (Laos)
4. *The Industrious Kampuchean People*, oil painting, Vong Sophia (Kampuchea)
5. *Don Quichotte*, carving by Demel Karel (Czechoslovakia)
6. *Goddess Nike*, oil painting by Anna Jenonek Scha (Poland)
7. The *Young Musician*, colour carving by Jens Elgner (GDR)
8. The *Nest*, plate carving by Saros Anoras Miklos (Hungary)
9. *Remembrance of the neutron bomb nightmare*, plate carving by Stoion Stoinov (Bulgaria).

Seven special prizes were offered by Vietnamese public services and mass organizations:

1. The prize offered by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture was conferred on the exhibition room of Kampuchean painters.

2. The prize offered by the Committee of the Writers and Artists Union was awarded to the oil painting *"White Landscape"* by Wladyslaw Michel Matusz (Poland).

3. The prize offered by the Vietnam Women's Union was awarded to the collection of pictures *The Child and the Animal, Father, Mother and Child, The Child and the Pilot, The Child and the Girl*, by Stepan Thomas Wagnes (GDR).

4. The prize offered by the CC of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union was awarded to the oil painting *Combat* by Le Huy Tiep (Vietnam).

5. The prize offered by the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions was awarded to the oil painting *The Footwear Factory* by Nadezda Kuteva (Bulgaria).

6. The prize offered by the Hanoi Committee of the CPV was awarded to the oil painting *Children in War Time* by Rimas Zigmantas (The USSR).

7. The prize offered by the Hanoi People's Committee was awarded to the carving *Peace* by Radovzy Ctyarmati Gabor (Hungary).

The 1987 International Painting and Graphic Arts Exhibition in Hanoi opened up a fine cultural activity, and marked a new progress of the Vietnamese Plastic Arts. Through it, the Vietnamese public had an opportunity to enter into contact more broadly and in a more diversified way with the socialist plastic arts in a number of fraternal countries.

VU QUOC HUNG

AN IMPORTANT TURNING-POINT IN VIETNAM–SOVIET COOPERATION

Talks between Vietnamese and Soviet leaders
Photo: XUAN LAM

From 17 to 22 May 1987, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam paid an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This was the first journey abroad by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh since he took office. The visit was a logical happening: since long solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union has been regarded as the cornerstone of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's foreign policy. International public opinion closely followed the visit. With regard to the Vietnamese people, needless to say that the visit had been eagerly anticipated and was attentively followed by them, for its outcome is bound up with the solution of our present serious economic difficulties and with our socio-economic progress in future.

The visit had a fine conclusion, and this is no mere habitual formula for commenting on such events. The fine success of the visit can be seen in the contents of the talks between Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrade M. S. Gorbachev, in their speeches, and in the joint Vietnam - Soviet communiqué issued on this occasion. There is solid ground for affirming that the talks "mark a new qualitative development in economic cooperation between the two sides" as emphasized by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh when he reported on the visit (*Nhan Dan*, issue of 31 May).

The talks concentrated first of all on cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. This cooperation has for long been comprehensive. It has assumed an ever larger scale and has brought important results both during the war years and in post-war reconstruction in Vietnam. "Soviet assistance and support was one of the decisive factors of the historic victories won by Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu and in the Ho Chi Minh campaign which ended in the total liberation of the South, and is one such factor in the present socialist construction and national defence of Vietnam," said Comrade Nguyen Van Linh at a meeting held at the Paris Commune footwear factory in Moscow. He expressed "our deepest gratitude to the Party of Lenin and the great Soviet people" for the strong support and great assistance, disinterested and filled with lofty proletarian internationalism, shown by the Soviet Union with regard to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause over the past decades.

In his speech at a function in honour of the Vietnamese delegation at the Kremlin on 19 May 1987, General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev had fine words to say about the Vietnamese people: "Our century has been a harsh one. It has been filled with violence and bloodshed. Against such a background, the tragic fate of the Vietnamese people has stood out. For nearly three decades after the birth of the DRV, the Vietnamese people had to defend their right to live, their right to an independent existence, in fierce battles against successive aggressors. But Vietnam stood firm and won."

Each Vietnamese man and woman felt moved when Comrade M.S. Gorbachev once again reaffirmed the principled stand of the Soviet Communists and people who have constantly sided with the Vietnamese people and done everything they could, "with a clear and pure conscience", in order to help them, up to the present and in future.

Vietnam - Soviet talks this time were oriented toward the requirements of today and tomorrow. Both sides noted that in spite of the large scale assumed by their economic cooperation, it has begun to show weak points which are not congruent with the new situation. Let us recall, incidentally, that on 7 May this year, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam had reviewed the errors and shortcomings committed in the perception and organization of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union and leading to reduced effectiveness in the use of Soviet assistance and cooperation. Hence it was only natural that the renovation and upgrading of economic cooperation held pride of place in the talks this time.

Henceforward, Vietnam-Soviet cooperation must satisfy these urgent requirements: greater effectiveness in the direction of socialist integration, specialization and cooperation in production, more active use of the principles of socialist trading. Both sides agreed to shift the emphasis from assistance and trading to cooperation in production. This calls for a search for and an application of new forms of cooperation such as sub-contracting, working on materials supplied by the other side, organization of joint ventures in industry and agriculture. Thus cooperation will take place on three levels: government, branch, and enterprise. "Points of contact" in cooperation will be expanded noticeably. This is to be a "turning-point" in the modes and forms of cooperation between the two countries.

In conformity with the socio-economic tasks set by the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam for the period ahead, namely to stabilize socio-economic life while preparing for major advances, the two sides agreed to concentrate on such practical fields as exploitation and processing of farm products, production of consumer goods, development of engineering, electronics, fertilizers and chemicals, mining, energy, transport and communications...; and to turn to full account the productive potentials and manpower available in Vietnam. The Soviet Union will continue to assist Vietnam in the training of scientific and managerial cadres and skilled workers. This cooperation will provide Vietnam with favourable conditions for implementing the three major economic programmes set by the Sixth Congress of the CPV: production of food, consumer goods, and export goods. Thus, together with the shift in the modes and forms of cooperation, there will also be a reorientation in the contents of economic cooperation. Said Comrade Nguyen Van Linh: "This reorientation will create for our people new possibilities for exploiting our manpower, land, natural wealth, our existing productive potentials, and will provide them with favourable conditions for expanding their participation in the socialist international division of labour" (*Nhan Dan*, 31 May).

Besides, Vietnam and the Soviet Union reached agreement on major long-term questions: the Soviet Union will help in the elaboration of a long-term programme of economic development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the two sides will work out measures to promote economic ties between Vietnam and the Soviet Far East.

A number of related protocols were signed on the occasion of General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's visit. Other protocols will no doubt be signed in the days to come, based on the principles agreed upon.

What is said above proves that in the coming period Vietnam - Soviet cooperation will fully display the two peoples' socialist internationalist spirit. As Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said, these relations of cooperation "will set a brilliant example of relations between a developed industrialized country and an economically backward country, a brilliant example of assistance by a developed socialist country to an economically backward socialist country so that the latter can progress toward the level of development of advanced socialist countries."

This is clearly a vivid illustration of the Leninist doctrine on the road of socialist development in economically backward countries newly liberated from imperialist oppression. It was no accident that in his speech at the above-mentioned Soviet function, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh said: "In conformity with Lenin's behests, our Party has consistently held that in order to undertake the transition to socialism starting from a backward economy and bypassing the stage of capitalist development, a *sine qua non* condition is to enjoy Soviet assistance and cooperate with the Soviet Union, the first and mightiest socialist State."

This is the unwavering stand of Vietnam in foreign affairs in general and in foreign economic relations in particular. Recently, availing themselves of the difficulties encountered by Vietnam, some imperialist circles in the West have nurtured the hope of "regaining influence" in our country, as hinted at by the BBC. Let there be no misunderstanding: Vietnam has never "closed the door" to cooperation with any country, provided it's cooperation on an equal footing, based on respect for each other's national sovereignty and mutual benefit. Economic cooperation between countries with different social regimes conforms to the laws governing economic life in the world today. But let no one nurture vain political hopes in economic cooperation with Vietnam, which has fought imperialism for thirty long years in order to embark on the road of national independence and socialism.

The recently held talks in Moscow between the General Secretaries of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of the Soviet

(Continued on page 20)

HOW TO EVALUATE THE COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY OF A PARTY CADRE

Editor's Note: On 6 May 1987, CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh spoke at the opening of the first course held at the Nguyen Ai Quoc Higher Party School to study the Resolution of the Sixth Party Congress.

Below are the first part of his speech and the passage dealing with the need to renovate cadre work. The title is ours.

(...)

While affirming the achievements we have obtained in the building of socialism and in national defence, the Sixth Party Congress also pointed to our shortcomings and mistakes in various domains, economic, social, political, ideological and organizational. More than ever before, the revolution in our country urgently demands that we renovate our way of thinking and doing things, that we carry out a deep-going and comprehensive renovation in all domains of social activity. The Sixth Party Congress marked a major turning-point on the road to renovation.

As you know, the Fourth Party Congress set forth a correct political and economic line for the whole period of transition to socialism. However, this line remained to be concretized for the present stage. At the Fifth Party Congress we began concretizing the general line to suit the characteristics of the first stage. However, in practical guidance we still followed the beaten track with its shortcomings. There were errors in our perception of the transitional period and its first stage; in our perception of the steps to be taken to industrialize the country; in the structure of our investments in capital construction; in the transformation of the relations of production; in our mechanism of economic management; in commodity distribution and circulation; in the exercise of proletarian dictatorship and the sovereignty of the people. These subjective shortcomings have further complicated and aggravated the difficulties facing our country.

We have obtained noticeable successes but they still fall far behind our possibilities and potentials. One of the factors responsible for the stagnation and disorder in production, circulation and distribution, which have further aggravated our difficulties and generated more negative phenomena is the conservative and bureaucratic way of thinking and doing things. This is an unacceptable situation which must be reversed through drastic measures in the fields of ideology, organization, personnel and style of work.

(...) "This is also a process of resolute struggle against the old, against conservatism and stagnation, dogmatism and stereo-type, subjectivism and rashness, degeneration and alienation, and die-hard outmoded habits. This is also an arduous revolutionary struggle in all areas of life and within each of us". (Document of the Sixth Party Congress).

(...) To renovate life, we must first of all renovate our thinking. This involves one's capacity to grasp objective laws, to conform to these laws, and to apply them in accordance with the concrete conditions of our country, to develop an innovative spirit and bring forth new ideas, to search for effective methods of work... This requires that we oppose superficial empiricism, oppose subjective, conservative and dogmatic thinking, oppose the separation of theory from practice. To this end, we must match words with deeds, show high revolutionary zeal, base our actions on scientific knowledge, face the truth, disseminate information on our activities, have a firm grasp of realities, regard the achievement of practical results in socialist construction as our goal, and conduct our affairs on the basis of promoting the right of the masses to exercise mastery and initiative. In other words, renovation of thinking must go together with renovation of the style of work. This is a unified, indivisible process.

In what direction shall we renovate our thinking and style of work? Generally speaking, our effort must be directed toward developing production, building a rich and healthy socialist-oriented material and spiritual life, and step by step building socialism in our country.

At present, first priority should be given to the release of our potentials. We have large untapped potentials in manpower, land, natural resources, machinery, equipment, funds of all sizes in State-owned economic units and cooperatives and in other

economic sectors, and also in our joint business ventures both inside and outside the country, especially with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. We must strongly renovate our way of thinking and doing things, which has so far hampered production. This demands a quick renovation of the mechanism of management and of a series of related policies. As we all know, basically the mechanism of bureaucratic centralized management based on State subsidies has not yet been abolished; the new mechanism has not yet been fully established and many obsolete policies and regulations have not yet been replaced by new ones. "We have only outlined the main orientation of the new mechanism, but many questions relating to its contents, forms and to the concrete steps and methods to implement it have not yet been resolved in both theory and practice" (Documents of the Sixth Party Congress). It is in that direction that we should direct our renovation drive and demonstrate our innovative spirit. We should avoid hastiness in seeking to solve all questions at the same time but neither should we condone conservatism, indecision, and reluctance to change. Of course, we should be cautious and proceed step by step but at the same time we must be resolved to attack in force and bring about drastic changes wherever possible in order to shift the mechanism of management from bureaucratic centralism and reliance on State subsidies to socialist business accounting. This is a deep-reaching revolution which is taking place in the whole of society and within each person. Life has provided many examples of new ways of thinking and doing things, although they are not as yet a universal phenomenon. More and more units characterized by efficiency in production and business operations have emerged, offering to the country solutions susceptible of general application and principles of strategic importance in production and trading.

Together with the study of the experiences acquired in the building of socialism in fraternal socialist countries, the lessons provided by advanced units in our country will help us grasp more deeply and comprehensively the concrete contents of renovation and arrive at timely and definite conclusions with a view to practical action. It is regrettable that progress in this field has remained intolerably slow.

To renovate any area of social life we have to make theoretical preparations. Theory must be the premise and fundamental condition for practical renovation because, as Lenin said, there can be no revolutionary movement without revolutionary theory. On the basis of correct theory, we shall devise concrete mechanisms of management and formulate appropriate policies and measures to meet the demands of life. Through methods of social experimentation applied to different models in different branches and localities we shall select elements consistent with social laws and acceptable by life and apply them on a large scale. At this point, the new, correct thinking formed in daily practice will be embodied in State institutions and permeate the everyday action of the broad masses of the population. This is the deep root which supplies even more vitality to our theoretical work, keeps it in the right direction, and takes it to an ever higher level. Only such theory as follows this stringent cycle faces a bright future and accomplishes its social function. Also, only by following this process will practical activities liberate themselves from empiricism and impulsiveness and avoid the costly groping for circuitous ways. In my opinion, from now on, major Party and State decisions should be elaborated in this way. In fact, there is no other way to engage in conscious action to control social evolution. This is a vital question in the renovation of our thinking and style of work. In this way, we shall tackle the major tasks set by the Sixth Party Congress such as the three key programmes, the improvement of the economic management mechanism, the readjustment of distribution and circulation, the drafting of a long-term socio-economic strategy, and the programme covering the whole period of transition to socialism in our country. All attempts at renovation of thinking and style of work will end in failure if they are not based on a complete break with wishful thinking, self-justification, and the beaten track.

(...)

Renovation depends first of all on the renovation of cadres. The Political Bureau will soon adopt a resolution on and vigorously conduct a campaign for purifying the Party, overcoming unhealthy phenomena in the State apparatus, and pushing back negative phenomena in society. Of this endeavour cadre work is one of the most important links. The Political Bureau will also adopt a resolution on the planning and organization of cadre work.

Successive generations of cadres have been trained and tempered in our long revolutionary struggle. This is a precious foundation, an invaluable starting-point for our work. However, it is clear that it is not sufficient. The present stage of the revolution has new demands which require fundamental and deep changes in the training and use of cadres. Experience shows that after a correct line has been adopted, cadres constitute the most decisive factor for translating this line into reality. Of late, many judicious policies and guidelines of the State have had but little practical effect or have remained on paper because of the inability of cadres to concretize them or give guidance to their implementation.

The Sixth Party Congress made it clear that the basic worth of a cadre is to be measured against his

ability to fulfil the political tasks assigned to him. At present, this is firstly his capacity to renovate his thinking and his style of work so as to release the potentials for production and trading and arouse the people's innovative spirit and sense of mastery. Cadres who prove themselves unable to meet the new demands must be retrained or replaced. We shall not renew personnel using purely formal criteria such as age, education, origin, etc., but we will chiefly base ourselves on the tasks to be accomplished urgently and efficatiously and assign cadres for them accordingly.

The present renovation drive requires that our cadres study unceasingly and learn ever more and in every possible way if they are to shoulder tasks that could not be fulfilled failing a given theoretical and cultural level. Those who are too lazy to study and think, who prefer to act on the strength of their obsolete experience, are of no help in the present drive for renovation and may even hamper it. Facts in the world and in our own country show that cadres who are incapable of rising to the level of the new situation tend to become skeptics and are likely to stand in the way of renovation.

Intellectual abilities, however important, are only one element in what is required of a cadre. Let us bear in mind that revolutionary qualities are of utmost importance. Such qualities as boundless loyalty to the communist ideal of the working class, the revolutionary resolve to act on the offensive, untiring efforts to build socialism effectively, close links with and dedication to the interests of the working people, respect for and contribution to the exercise of their mastery, integrity and courage in struggle, capacity for self-criticism, and a wholesome and exemplary lifeway — all these are indispensable qualities without which a cadre would be of no use to the revolution, whatever his intellectual abilities. It should be emphasized that these qualities must be evaluated chiefly through the cadre's capacity to accomplish the tasks assigned to him.

Cadres in high office who have become bureaucrats placing their personal interests above everything else, who are after position and wealth, opportunists who lie to their superiors and deceive their subordinates, who bully the people and build for themselves a princely lifestyle through illicit incomes have no place among us. For too long we have not seriously dealt with this problem and have failed to show the necessary firmness. For the sake of the purity of the Party, the efficacity of the State apparatus, the right to mastery of the people, we must adopt urgent measures to deal with this situation.

We are facing extremely difficult tasks. We must perceive the complex problems of life accurately and indepth. This depends first of all on the progress of our theoretical and ideological work. We must require cadres of high and medium ranks to raise their theoretical level and their capacity for scientific thinking. If cadres' theoretical standards are low, if each of them relies principally on his own personal experiences and can understand a question only in his own way, then while providing practical guidance they will act arbitrarily, guided by outmoded concepts which may lean left or right; they will pass from one extreme to another and fail to distinguish right from wrong. Often, they will stubbornly cling to what has been proved wrong and persist in rejecting what has been proved right. Why is it that some branches, localities and units have invested in such projects not included in the plan as meeting-halls, offices and stadiums sums totalling 6 or 7 billion *dong*, and this only three or four months after the Sixth Party Congress? We cannot tolerate that while formally voicing acceptance of the Party resolution, they act in a way that is at variance with it, under the pretence of "self-financing". This behaviour, in addition to other reasons, is due to a low theoretical level, to an incapacity to understand the essence and the principled character of the ideas and policies adopted by the Congress. On the other hand, the ideas of the Congress should not be understood in a merely literal way, but in the light of the viewpoints, theoretical foundations, and fundamental practice on which they rest. Only in this way can they be applied in an innovative way and can one dare to think and to act. Several months have passed, yet quite a few cadres still remain passive and are at a loss for a way to start work according to the directives of the Congress. Obviously such failure to firmly grasp the viewpoints of the Congress is one of the main reasons for this passive attitude... ●

GENERAL SECRETARY ...

(Continued from page 2)

On behalf of the Episcopal Council, Cardinal Trinh Van Can expressed deep gratitude for the concern shown to the Catholics by the Party, the State and the administration at all levels. He pledged the Catholics' will to live in the fold of the nation and to join the fellow countrymen in the whole country in building and firmly defending the socialist Vietnamese homeland. He also expressed his confidence that the implementation of the Resolution of the Sixth Congress of the CPV would bring about great benefits to the Vietnamese people, including the Catholics.

VAN HOA

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IS NATO READY FOR DIALOGUE?

On 29 May 1987 the Political Consultative Conference of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty signed and made public in Berlin a document entitled "On the Military Doctrine of the Member Countries of the Warsaw Treaty".

This is yet another manifestation of the just nature and the high sense of responsibility of socialism in its international policy and in relations among nations.

Peaceful by nature, the socialist countries do not make their future contingent on military solutions to international problems. Instead, they are for solving these problems by peaceful methods and through political means. On the basis of the new thinking and the new viewpoint on war and peace in the nuclear and space age, the socialist countries reject the doctrine of "nuclear deterrent" and resolutely struggle for nuclear disarmament and for comprehensive and complete disarmament. They have unambiguously declared once again that their military doctrine is of a purely defensive character. The member countries of the Warsaw Treaty will not attack any country unless they are attacked, will never be the first to use nuclear arms, and have no territorial ambition against any country. They stand for building relations with other countries on the basis of mutual security and peaceful coexistence, and building international relations on the basis of respect for each other's independence and national sovereignty, non-recourse to force or the threat of force, settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, etc. While striving for disarmament, the socialist countries are obliged to maintain their armed forces at a level that would allow them to repel all attacks from the outside against any member of the Treaty. It is obvious to all people of conscience that the military doctrine of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty is the exact opposite of the military doctrine of the US militarists and NATO. It does not seek military superiority but aims to maintain the present military-strategic equilibrium and bring it down to an ever lower level.

The declaration of the Warsaw Treaty countries on their military doctrine is a necessary and very significant act. Let world public opinion compare it to the doctrines so far set forth by the Western militarist circles, which hypothesize not the consolidation of international peace and security but very dangerous and even disastrous happenings for the nations and for human civilization as a whole. It helps public opinion at large to see through the slanders used by sinister forces of war against the Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Treaty, and also their real design behind these slanders. In fact, such smear slogans as "Soviet danger" and "communist danger" are fast worn out.

The Warsaw Treaty's military doctrine is no mere rhetoric. The Berlin conference put to the United States and NATO a series of concrete proposals embracing many areas. These can be summed up as follows :

— An agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles of the United States and the Soviet Union in Europe; the removal of tactical and theatre missiles of the Soviet Union installed in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia to counter the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles of the United States in Western Europe.

— Elimination of tactical missiles of the United States and the Soviet Union in Europe and opening of talks on the removal of these weapons from the eastern part of the Soviet Union and from US territory.

— Settlement of all problems relating to tactical nuclear means in Europe, including tactical missiles, at multilateral talks to be held on the basis of the proposal made by the Warsaw Treaty in Budapest.

To reduce strategic offensive weapons by 50% within five years, and consolidate the mechanism of the treaty on antiballistic missile defence.

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— To ban all kinds of nuclear arms and the introduction of nuclear arms into space; to prohibit anti-satellite defence systems and space-earth weapons.

— To reduce conventional armed forces and weapons by 25% by the early 90s and to continue this reduction until the year 2000.

— The countries participating in the security and cooperation conference in Europe to begin negotiations to reduce their armed forces and conventional weapons, their tactical nuclear weapons, and their military expenditures, and to discuss urgent measures to reduce the risk of military confrontation and build up mutual confidence.

— To establish regions free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans, Central Europe and Northern Europe, to reduce armed forces and adopt confidence-building measures in Central Europe, as proposed by the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland.

— To strengthen economic, scientific and technological cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit, etc.

These proposals of the Berlin conference demonstrate the persevering efforts and good will of the Soviet Union and the other members of the Warsaw Treaty who have been doing all in their power to accelerate detente in Europe and the process of disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament.

The Berlin conference also highlights the will of the Warsaw Treaty members to solve all regional conflicts peacefully and through negotiations. Their attitude regarding the situation in the Middle East, South Pacific, the Korean peninsula, Southeast Asia, South Asia, southern Africa, Central Africa, and the question of establishing a new international economic order, reflects their deep concern and high sense of responsibility with regard to peace and common security.

The Vietnamese people warmly acclaim and strongly support the decisions adopted by the Political Consultative Conference of the members of the Warsaw Treaty in Berlin. They demand that responsible men in the ruling circles in the United States and NATO seriously consider these decisions in the light of the deep changes that have occurred in the world today. ●

A GANGSTER ACT BY SOUTH AFRICA

The racist ruling circles in South Africa have recently committed a new crime against the people of Mozambique. On the night of 28 May 1987, they sent a commando team to attack Maputo, killing a number of civilians and destroying many houses. The targets of their attack were residences of Mozambican leaders and foreign embassies. This was a serious violation of the sovereignty and national independence of Mozambique, and a crude encroachment on the principles governing international relations. The racists have unceasingly increased tension in southern Africa.

For many months now, the South African administration has repeatedly put forward slanders and threats, and conducted a series of war acts against Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and other frontline States. Its troops have made repeated incursions in depth into Mozambican territory, brazenly helping the counter-revolutionaries in the National Resistance Movement to wreck the people's peaceful life, and causing damage amounting to nearly six billion dollars, and the death of over 100,000 people.

These blatant actions have shown that Pretoria's expansionist ambitions and aggressive nature have remained unchanged. Aided and abetted by the US, Pretoria is pushing forward its State policy of terror, running counter to the aspiration of the peoples of the frontline States to live in peace, national independence and social progress.

The Vietnamese people strongly condemn the South African administration's policy of aggression and intervention against the People's Republic of Mozambique and the other frontline States. We firmly demand that it stop forthwith all destabilizing acts and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region.

Let the racists remember that their last fortress in southern Africa cannot be saved with gangster attacks. ●

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SEOUL SITS ON A VOLCANO

On 26 May, under strong popular pressure spearheaded by democratic forces, the dictatorial Chun Doo Hwan regime in South Korea announced a major cabinet shake-up in which eight members including the prime minister were dismissed. This was the biggest government reshuffle since February 1985.

For several weeks now the political atmosphere in South Korea has become truly explosive. Demonstrations, meetings, and other protest actions by students and anti-government democratic forces have broken out in quick succession. In spite of the deployment of huge police forces, tens of thousands of students and other people have taken to the streets to demand the resignation of Chun Doo Hwan, an end to his dictatorial regime, and the restoration of democratic freedoms.

The deep-rooted cause of the continuing political instability leading to the present flare-up is the reactionary domestic and foreign policies of the Chun Doo Hwan clique, which run counter to the legitimate interests and aspirations of the broad masses of the population.

In its domestic affairs, in order to consolidate its position and keep absolute power, the Seoul administration has launched large-scale campaigns of repression of democratic and progressive forces. Tens of thousands of people have been put in jail "for political reasons". It has also banned all demonstrations and meetings and other activities of the trade unions and students. The press is muzzled and stringent censorship is in force. All this has been done on the strength of a so-called "National Security Act".

In its external relations, the Seoul administration has further strengthened its ties with the United States in all fields, turning South Korea into a huge military base where the US is maintaining a standing force of 41,000 troops and deploying more than one thousand nuclear warheads together with huge quantities of other sophisticated weapons. South Korea has become a storm-trooper serving the US strategy of opposing peace, national independence and socialism in the region. American and South Korean troops have just concluded a joint military exercise of unprecedented scale lasting three months.

The domestic and foreign policies of the Seoul administration have not only trampled upon the ardent aspiration of the people for national independence and unity but are also posing a serious threat to peace and security in Northeast Asia. These policies are opposed by the vast majority of the South Korean people and by all peoples in the region.

The latest cabinet reshuffle in South Korea highlights the weakening position and the serious crisis of the dictatorial regime in Seoul. It does not point to any policy change, but merely serves to placate public opinion in South Korea, which is resolutely demanding the exercise of democratic rights and better living conditions. However, no cosmetic change and no dismissal of scapegoats can help Chun Doo Hwan and his clique put out the rising flames of popular struggle. Chun Doo Hwan is finding himself in a blind alley. ●

WASHINGTON'S DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PERSIAN GULF

The situation in the Persian Gulf remains tense. Using as a pretext the attack on the US frigate *Stark* on May 17, Washington is beefing up its military presence in this region. Immediately after the *Stark* incident the Pentagon ordered patrolling by US fighter aircraft along the sea lanes in the Persian Gulf. President Reagan ordered the entire US fleet in the Gulf to be placed on alert and to "respond to any threat". Under the pretext of "protecting free navigation in the Gulf" the Reagan administration has set up a 7-ship task-force to escort 11 Kuwaiti oiltankers flying the American flag. At the same time, the Pentagon has dispatched fighter planes "to protect the oil tankers", increased the number of US warships in the Gulf, and deployed carrier-based mid-air-refuelled warplanes in the Strait of Hormuz. Washington has also urged its allies in the Gulf area to provide air cover for US escort vessels for the Kuwaiti tankers. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Constellation* has been sent to the Gulf area to reinforce the US fleet there.

These acts of military escalation by the Reagan administration have further complicated the situation in the Gulf area and have provoked deep concern in the region and throughout the world. Especially serious is the fact that at the meeting of NATO defence ministers held in Brussels recently, US Defence Secretary C. Weinberger openly called on the other members of NATO to join in the US plans of intervention and aggression in the Persian Gulf. This is obviously a calculated move to increase US military presence in the Persian Gulf and involve NATO in the increasing tension in this region.

Washington's actions show that its professed intention of solving peacefully regional issues and its expressed wish to see an early end to the Iran - Irak war are only empty rhetoric. Its military actions have actually increased tension and rendered an already critical situation even more explosive. Playing the innocent and the bully at the same time, Reagan said that he saw no danger of "United States involvement in the Iran - Irak war". But many US congressmen have voiced their concern at the increased interventionist military role of the US in the Persian Gulf. US allies have shown reservation, and have distanced themselves from the US adventurous plans. Clear-sighted people in the West have voiced their misgivings about the unpredictable consequences of US military actions here. Washington must take full responsibility for the dangerous situation developing in the Gulf area as a result of its actions. ●

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A MANAGER HAS BEEN ELECTED AT A PAPER MILL

On 10 April 1987, 133 representatives of cadres and workers at the Thanh Long Paper Mill elected a new manager by secret ballot. Nguyen Ngoc Quan was elected by an overwhelming majority, 99% of the votes. On 15 April, the People's Committee of Hai Hung province officially appointed him manager of the mill.

The Thanh Long paper mill is a State-owned factory with a staff of 420 and an annual capacity of 1,600 tons. Its main products are typing paper, mimeograph paper, toilet paper and cardboard.

Early this year, Hoang Binh, the then director, was given a new assignment. Upholding the democratic choice of managerial cadres at the grassroots, the provincial Party Committee decided that a new manager would be elected. Meetings were convened at work-team and all production workshop level and finally a general plant meeting was called. Discussions centered on the significance of the election, the qualifications and powers of the would-be manager, and on the right and responsibility of the workers in choosing a new manager. Then candidates were nominated. There was no limit to their number. They might include all persons working in the factories and industrial department of the province. After the first deliberations five persons were nominated.

The nominees were allowed a certain period of time in which to investigate the situation at the mill and work out their respective programmes of action. These were presented to a meeting of factory personnel, at which questions were asked and answered.

The election of a new manager at the Thanh Long factory is a new phenomenon not only in Hai Hung province but indeed in the whole country. So far, plant managers are appointed by the provincial authorities or the ministry concerned on the basis of the recommendations of the local Party Committee and administration. Workers and employees thus cannot fully exercise their democratic rights. At the end of a production cycle, if the plan is not fulfilled, the manager is not held personally responsible. Now, things will be different. If after one year the factory does not meet its production quota and this chiefly due to subjective factors, the provincial authorities will call the manager's abilities in question. If failure to fulfil the plan continues for two consecutive years, the manager will automatically be relieved of his function. On the other hand, plant cadres and workers are held responsible for the choice of the manager. Thus, a two-way relationship is formed between management and workers. In the new set-up, the manager can bring into full play the potentials of his factory in order to fulfil the plan. He enjoys large autonomy for expanding production. In his endeavour he has the full support of all the plant personnel.

QUYET THANG

ARE FACTORY MANAGERS TO BE ELECTED?

The recent election by secret ballot of the manager of the Thanh Long paper-mill (Hai Hung province) at a meeting of workers' representatives has been favourably commented upon. My personal view is that it conforms to the people's aspiration, helps renovate organization, boosts production and consequently living standards.

A recent article in *Nhan Dan* about professional contests to be held among plant managers has also elicited a warm public response. A manager should not be promoted on the grounds of seniority but should not be promoted on the grounds of seniority but should be one with the right political qualifications and professional abilities, one who dares to think, to act and to take responsibility, one with resolve and imagination, who can cope with difficulties in production and cares for the workers' welfare and also a man of humanity and integrity.

In preparation for such contests — the content of municipal authorities and approved by the Council which should be determined by the provincial and of Ministers — election of managers should be carried out at plenary workers' meetings or meetings of representatives of workers and employees. A plenary meeting is best, for frank and sincere ideas will be heard from the maximum number of people. Meetings of representatives on the other hand may be less objective, and candid because some representatives may tend to express only the leadership's views and neglect the opinions of the grassroots. What we need to know above all is what the producers, the ordinary people in the factory, think. Of course, to be able to make a correct choice, the voter should be fully informed about everything. He should have a correct idea of the qualities to be expected from a plant manager, and should know whether these qualities are to be found in the candidate.[1]

In many countries, the election of plant managers has been taking place for several years, with good results. The workers' confidence and affection for their elected leader will act as a physical force boosting production.

DAO NGOC DE

1. *A letter to the editor of Nhan Dan, published 28 May 1987.*

THE SECOND NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY AND HANDICRAFTS

It was held at the Giang Vo Exhibition Centre in Hanoi, the largest in Vietnam, from 19 May to 19 June this year. More than 5,000 exhibits were sent by 35 provinces and cities in the country (out of a total of 40). The first such exhibition had been held at the Exhibition Hall of the Vietnam Plastic Arts Association, with over 2,000 exhibits sent by 24 provinces and cities.

The stand of Ho Chi Minh City was the centre of attraction, with 800-odd exhibits displayed over a floor space of 350 square metres: embroidery and lace articles, garments of many kinds and colours, lacquerware, art objects inlaid with mother-of-pearl, electrical appliances and electronic goods, bicycle parts, medical equipment, plastic, rubber, and leatherette goods, bamboo and rattan basketry, wood carvings, ceramics, etc. On either side of the entrance to the stand is a 2.4-metre-high lacquer vase made by the Hoang Anh group in Thu Duc. An, the guide, told us that they had required eight months of industrious labour. In the very first days of the exhibition, he added, a foreign visitor bought them, paying 3,200 *dollars*. An also volunteered some information about the strengths of small-scale industry and handicrafts in Ho Chi Minh City: "They are the engineering, metal-working, and consumer goods industries. They account for 80% of the total output of this branch, which was the national pace-setter in 1986. By now the city has 16,000 production units employing 166,600 people. In 1986, production comprised 2,300 lines of products with a total output value of 16.2 billion *dong* (1982 constant prices), of which 2.2 billion *dong's* worth were exported."

The Hanoi stand ranked second, with more than 600 products displayed on a floor space of 250 sq. metres: rubber and plastic goods, products of the engineering and metal-working industries, garments and art objects, wood carvings, woollen carpets, ceramics and porcelain... Visitors were especially attracted by well-tailored garments and the beautifully-made Vinh Thanh bicycle, which compared favourably with imported ones. Embroidered pictures, both national and modern in character, were signed by artisans of the younger generation as well as by such well-known veterans as Song Hy. Artificial flowers testifying to the excellent taste and aesthetic sense as well as skills of their young creators were warmly praised by foreign buyers. A number of contracts involving large amounts were signed with Hungarian firms in particular.

In 1986, in Hanoi, 138,000 people worked in small-scale industry and handicrafts (38,000 of them were members of 432 cooperatives, the rest worked in production groups or individual households), producing 2,630,000 *dong's* worth of goods (1982 constant prices).

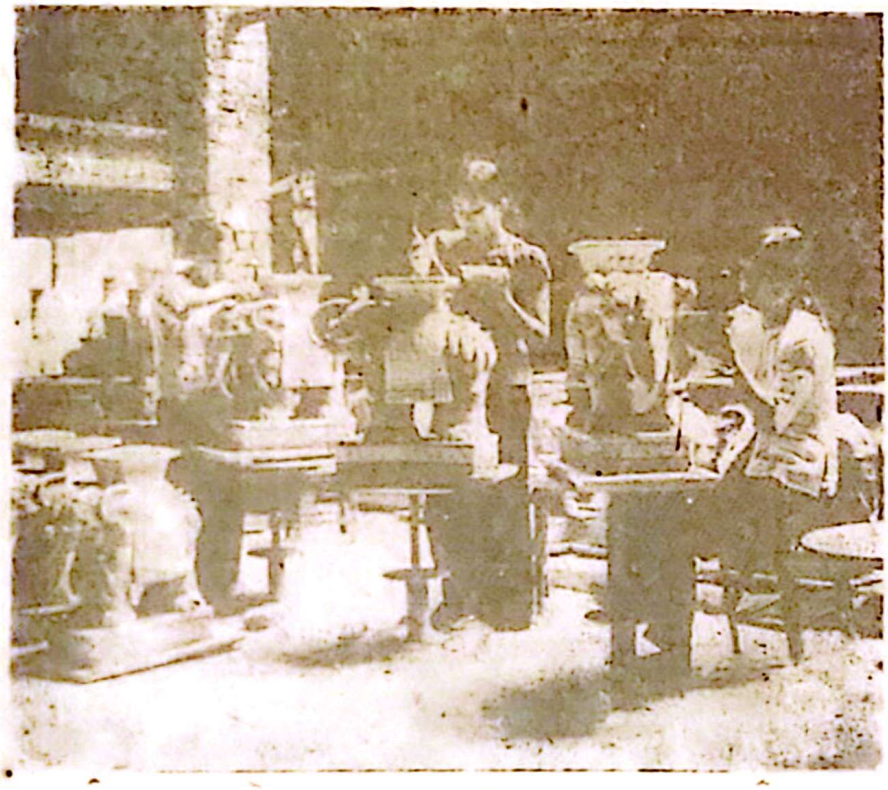
Among the provinces, Thai Binh stands in the van for small-scale industry and handicrafts (for which it was a pace-setter in 1984-85) as well as high rice yields. At present, 150,000 people in the province worked in 107 cooperatives. It is worth noting that both farming cooperatives and individual farmers' families work part time in handicrafts, which are no longer regarded as "sidelines". In 1986, they turned out 57% of the 800 million *dong* worth of goods produced by small-scale industry and handicrafts in the province. The best-known product lines are bamboo and rattan basketry produced by the Thai Xuyen farming coop (gold-medal winner at the 1986 National Exhibition), chased silverware produced by three cooperatives (Dong Sam, Phu Loi and Dai Dong, all in Kien Xuong district) and exported to many countries. We talked to a skilled silversmith, Bui Ngoc Phi, who said with a tinge of sadness: "There are not many veteran artisans left. Fortunately, a younger generation is being trained but snags remain in materials supply, pricing, and marketing."

High-grade porcelain and glassware are being produced in Thai Binh in kilns fired with natural gas extracted in Tien Hai district. This industry is receiving strong assistance from both the central and provincial administrations.

The stand of Thuan Hai province in south-central Vietnam was characterized by a specialty: articles made of woven strips of *buong* leaves, such as blinds of many designs, pictures, sleeping mats, shopping bags, etc. These articles are in great demand, both at home and abroad. Folding mats, for instance, are being exported in large quantities to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. At present, about 3,000 people work full time in this line.

The stand of Song Be province in the south featured beautiful lacquer and ceramic articles. Cao Duc Luong, the stand-keeper, told us that the province has a long-standing tradition in these two fields. "However," he added, "due to the province's inadequate pricing policy, many skilled lacquer artisans have left for Ho Chi Minh City. This is a great loss for us. I think that a number of policies should be revised with regard to small-scale industry and handicrafts."

Unlike Quang Ninh and Dong Nai, which produce mostly art objects, ceramic and porcelain articles turned out in Song Be are mostly articles used in the home, which feature new designs and glaze colours. At present there are in the province ten cooperatives and 250 private enterprises employing nearly 5,000 people in all. In 1986 they produced 13 million items of various kinds.



Pottery for export produced in Song Be.

* * *

To sum up, diversity and originality characterized this exhibition of products of small-scale industry and handicrafts in our country. Each province or city specializes in certain product lines. Put together, their efforts make up the aggregate strength of this branch of our economy, which faces a promising future.

However, as in other fields, many obstacles and difficulties lie ahead. It will not be easy to turn the potentials into realities. At present one cannot yet say that production is forging ahead and meets the demands of consumption. Materials are in short supply and prices are subject to fluctuations. Red tape is hampering the efforts of production units. Due to inflation, the prices at which goods are sold lag behind those of materials with which production will continue, and for the purchase of which producers lack cash. Power failures are frequent leading to interruptions in and damage to production. Taxation policies should be reviewed and amended. This was done in part at the second plenum of the CPV Central Committee held in April last.

Many bottlenecks and tangles will have to be cleared before small-scale industry and handicrafts can show real progress.

DAO QUANG BINH

NUCLEAR MEDICINE IN VIETNAM: THE FIRST STEPS

Professor PHAN VAN DUYET
Nuclear Medicine Director, Ministry of Public Health

For more than 30 years now radioactive isotopes have been playing an increasingly important role in life sciences, especially in biology, agriculture and medicine. Radio-isotopes and ionized radiation are used in medicine in all developed countries and in more than 50 developing countries. A new science, nuclear medicine, is developing fast. It consists in the use of radioactive elements in diagnosis, therapy and research.

Nuclear medicine, according to experts, has many advantages. It provides quick and accurate information for the detection of diseases including cancer, and is used in the treatment of a growing number of ailments. It causes no shock, no bleeding. Treatment is safe, if regulations are strictly observed, and inexpensive, if rationally organized.

Thanks to these advantages, more than one hundred million people in the world enjoy the benefits of nuclear medicine every year.

In Vietnam the use of radio-isotopes in medicine began at a relatively early date and has shown visible effectiveness. The first medical-radiation group was formed at Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi in 1969, by the Hanoi Medical College. Its beginnings were difficult. The group had to make do with whatever equipment was available, seeking to improve it gradually. Those primitive apparatuses impressed visiting foreign experts. Said Larson Johanson of the International Atomic Energy Commission: "Nowhere else have I seen so many effective home-made apparatuses."

After two years, in 1971, radio-isotopes began to be imported monthly from the Soviet Union and to be used in experimental diagnosis. More than 15 years have gone by since, and there are now 10 nuclear medicine units to serve the civilian population. Four are located in Hanoi, three in Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong, Hue and Bac Thai each has one. The nuclear-medicine centre at Bach Mai Hospital includes a research group from the Hanoi Medical College and the hospital's nuclear-medicine department. It is the leader of the national network.

From 1971 to 1975, measuring and sampling methods were developed and functional tests were made on the thyroid gland, blood, kidneys and digestive and urinary organs.

In the following five years 1976-1980, research results were applied on a large scale, photographic techniques were developed, and experimental treatment of the Basedow disease by iodine 131 and of polycythemia by phosphorus 32 was carried out.

Notable progress was made in the 1981-85 period. A vast research programme was conducted. It consisted of three ministry-level projects — radio photography by means of technetium 99; treatment of exophthalmic goitre (Basedow disease) by means of iodine 131 and of polycythemia by phosphorus 32; and safety techniques in radiology. There was also a state-sponsored project — quantification of radiation for diagnosis of endocrinal diseases, in addition to research projects on thyroid disorders, goitre, malaria and experimental use of radioactive isotopes test-produced by the Nuclear Institute at Dalat.

The same period saw the training of personnel for a number of localities and preparations for the establishment of more nuclear-medicine departments, under the guidance of the Ministry of Public Health and with the assistance of the National Nuclear Energy Institute. The first seminars on nuclear-medicine were held in Hanoi (December 1983) and in Ho Chi Minh City (May 1985).

The period also marked the beginning of Vietnam's participation in an IAEC-sponsored regional programme on nuclear-medicine for Asia and the Pacific.

By the end of 1985, more than 40 methods for diagnosis and two for treatment had been widely applied (to about 20,000 people in the country).

International assistance has been very useful. Assistance in training has been provided by the socialist countries, and five technical-aid programmes are being conducted by IAEC via Vietnam's National Nuclear Energy Institute and by the World Health Organization via the Ministry of Public Health. The nuclear-medicine department at Bach Mai Hospital has signed a cooperation agreement with the Institute of Radio-isotopes under the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and another with IAEC. Carlos Voler, deputy general director of the Commission, who was in Vietnam in 1984 for the reactivation of the nuclear reactor at Dalat, said during a visit to the Bach Mai nuclear-medicine department: "The use being made here of equipment provided by IAEC and other sources can serve as a good example of effective application of technical cooperation. I believe that working conditions will be improved with time, and I hope that the present vanguard spirit will continue in future." ●

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are now facing a dilemma to increase the planted area would be difficult and costly while to practise intensive farming and crop multiplication would require a large amount of fertilizers. Given the limited availability of chemical fertilizers in Vietnam owing to low production and lack of foreign currency for import, the only solution to the problem is to work out the best ways to use them in the conditions of our country, which has a tropical climate and a stretch of coastal plains.

In his approach to the problem, Professor Le Nguyen Soc of the Hanoi Institute of Industrial Chemistry has completed two promising research projects, outlined hereinbelow. These projects have yielded encouraging initial results and have attracted keen interest from agronomists and farmers.

COMPLEX FERTILIZERS FOR COASTAL PLAINS

For coastal plains (saline land, acid saline land, acid-sulphate land), the use of common NPK complex fertilizers (nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, does not lead to high productivity because the plants cannot absorb all the P within a short time. The remaining P will combine with iron and aluminium present in those soils to form iron phosphate and aluminium phosphate, which cannot be assimilated by the plants and may be toxic.

The use of NPKO complex fertilizer for coastal plains as proposed by Professor Le Nguyen Soc of the Hanoi Institute of Industrial Chemistry can remedy this state of things and give, a 15 to 25% increase in productivity compared with ordinary NPK (with the same amount of nutrients for the same area of cultivated land), according to agronomic tests. This fertilizer is also cheaper (its cost is only 65% of that of ordinary NPK). It can be produced on the spot (in the village, the hamlet, and even the farmer's house), using simple technology and local manpower.

The application and diffusion of this fertilizer has a great socio-economic significance for countries with large areas of coastal plains. ●

SLOW-SOLUBILITY PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER

Superphosphate contains essentially P_2O_5, which is soluble in water (as $CaH_4(PO_4)_2$) and thus does not lend itself to slow assimilation by plants. The agronomic effectiveness of this fertilizer is notably reduced in tropical countries where farming practice (submerged ricefields) and the climate (abundant rains) favour the dissolution and draining away of the fertilizing element. The use of concentrated acid and technological problems encountered in the production of superphosphate lead to high costs. Countries with no pyrite deposits (for the production of acid) can ill afford to apply this technology.

For its part, thermophosphate contains no P_2O_5 soluble in water and is effective only in acid lands. Coke is used to melt fluorine-apatite at 1250°C using such additives as serpentine. Great amounts of energy are used and this hampers the diffusion of the technique, especially in countries where no coke is produced.

The method proposed by Professor Le Nguyen Soc of the Hanoi Institute of Industrial Chemistry consists in treating apatite with much less sulfuric acid than in superphosphate technology, obtaining a transformation coefficient of P_2O_5 (that is, the ratio of P_2O_5 soluble in water to total P_2O_5) equal to 40-45%. This is necessary and sufficient for the development of plant roots and initial plant growth. The product no longer contains the original ore (examination by infra-red spectrography and by X-ray diffraction). The remaining part of the fertilizing element is incorporated in the other crystalline phases: $CaHPO_4$ and $Ca_4H(PO_4)_3$ — determined by X-ray diffraction; these are of slow solubility and continuously supply P to the plants during the whole period of their development.

Agronomic effectiveness tests of the new product conducted during two consecutive seasons (winter-spring and autumn) have yielded satisfactory results: yields obtained on rice are higher than with super phosphate, and damage by insects has been reduced.

The advantages of the new process are as follows:

— The utilization index of acid is clearly lower than with superphosphate technology; the energy index is also lower. With the same amount of acid one would obtain an amount of fertilizer much larger than that of superphosphate, which allows an intensive development of agriculture.

— The technology is simple, the costs for building a factory are relatively low.

— Production would be possible in every province, employing local personnel; transport costs are thus reduced.

— Production costs are low.

Slow-solubility phosphatic fertilizer (in place of superphosphate) is recommended chiefly for tropical countries.

QUANG BINH

World Environment Day

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM

The fast development of modern technologies has brought in its wake a serious pollution of the environment, especially in the developed countries. According to experts' estimates, more than 200 million tons of carbon monoxide, 145 million tons of sulfur trioxide, 53 million tons of nitric oxide, 50 million tons of hydrocarbons, and 250 million tons of dust are released into the atmosphere every year from factories and motor vehicles. Water is the most heavily polluted element: around 500 billion cubic metres are polluted every year by 650 million tons of iron, 320 million tons of calcium, 10 million tons of oil, 2.3 million tons of lead, and 700 tons of mercury, not to mention about 50 million tons of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

To protect man's environment, therefore, is a major concern of the whole world. Legislation has been enacted in many countries to this end, particularly with regard to water resources.

In Vietnam, the Communist Party and the Government have long been preoccupied with this problem and have consequently adopted appropriate policies and measures to involve the entire population in the endeavour. Regulations on the protection of forests, plants and rare animals have been issued. Resolution 37 of the CPV Political Bureau provides for "devoting special attention and effective measures to combating air and water pollution, soil deterioration, and harmful agents which may be present in production processes and in everyday life, particularly in industrial centres and urban areas." The Council of Ministers' Resolution 246, dated May 20, 1985, calls for the intensification of basic surveys, the rational use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. The "Planting trees at Tet" movement, initiated by President Ho Chi Minh in the spring of 1965 has become an annual event in which the entire population participates. The sedentarization of nomadic ethnic groups has helped curb slash-and-burn farming. In rural areas, the sanitation movement, which includes the construction by every home of well, bathroom and compost toilet, has been very beneficial.

Nevertheless, the importance of environmental protection, and rational use of natural resources has not been fully grasped by everyone. Pollution in Vietnam has reached the danger point, as illustrated below

The Decline in the Forest Area

The forest area in Vietnam has been halved in the last 40 years, down from 14,272,000 hectares in 1945 (43.8 per cent of the national territory) to 7,800,000 hectares in 1984 (23.6 per cent of the territory), the average annual loss being 160,000 hectares. The situation is the most serious in the north (73 per cent), somewhat less so in the central and southern parts of the country (20 and 13.8 per cent respectively). Forests have practically vanished from some regions. In the northwest, for instance, forests now cover only 8-10 per cent of the total area. At this rate there could be no more forest in Vietnam by the year 2000.

Forest quality, too, has deteriorated seriously. Forests with timber reserves upward of 150 cubic metres per hectare account for only about 11 per cent of the total forest area. The rest consists of stunted vegetation. The attendant soil erosion has reached alarming proportions. From one to two centimetres of topsoil is removed every year from the barren hillsides, which means the loss of from 100 to 200 tons of fertile soil per hectare.

Exhaustion of the "Genetic Fund"

Serious losses have been caused to the "genetic fund" as a result of wanton exploitation of forest and aquatic products. Faced with extinction are rare timber species, animals like one-horned rhinoceros, gaur and peafowl, and marine creatures like abalone, holothurian and lobster. Tapir and two-horned rhinoceros in particular have disappeared.

Pollution on the Rise

Most of our industrial equipment and technologies being antiquated, means are lacking for the elimination and processing of waste toxic gases, dust, and noise. Pollution is fairly serious in big cities, like Hanoi, Haiphong, Thai Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang. Surveys conducted in certain urban areas show that CO_2 concentration is 2.7 times higher than the normal level, and that of SO_3 up to 14 times higher. Pollution is much more serious in industrial environment. In a number of factories, concentration of CO_2, So_3 and Cr_2O_3 is a dozen of times higher than the permissible level. That of lead dust at certain places is a thousand times that level.

Pollution by industrial and non-industrial waste in certain industrial and urban areas is considerable. The waters of rivers running through industrial centres like Viet Tri and Bien Hoa turn mud-black and scummy.

Pollution by pesticides is also a matter of concern. On an average, 5,100 tons of such substances were used in the country every year in the 1976-80 period (0.6 — 0.7kg per hectare), and 3,920 tons (0.4 — 0.48kg per hectare) in 1981-85. The peak year was 1978 when as much as 22,000 tons were used. Careless use of insecticides has resulted in hundreds of recorded accidents every year, with thousands of people affected. Fatality rate was very high (30 per cent in certain cases).

Environmental problems in Hanoi, the capital city, are also cause for concern. About 100,000 pigs are kept by individual households in the inner city in varying sanitary conditions. That means the discharge of about 300 tons of waste into the sewer system and natural waterways every day. There is also the inadequate disposal of a daily average of 251,000 cubic metres of industrial and household waste. For some time now, as a result of a construction boom and frequent repairs of underground water conduits and cables, cloggings of city drains have become common occurrences. Flies, mosquitoes and other disease-carriers have fast multiplied. Sixty-one per cent of the state-owned factories and 79 per cent of the co-operatives in the inner city release potentially noxious substances. Investigations conducted by the city's Labour Hygiene Service in the past 15 years have shown an increasing pollution rate in work places. Of the gas samples taken in 1970-80, 34.8 per cent were found to be higher than the permissible level for toxicity. From 1981 to 1985 the rate increased to 51 per cent. The rates for dust and noise samples increased from 39.8 per cent to 93 per cent, and from 57 per cent to 95 per cent respectively.

Wasteful Use of Mineral Resources

Due to faulty surveying, designing, exploitation and processing, great losses have been incurred in the exploitation and utilization of various minerals including coal and apatite. In certain cases, losses have been found to be two or three times greater than is permissible. All this has added to environmental pollution.

Consequences of War

During its war of aggression on Vietnam the United States dumped 13 million tons of ordnance on the country. In an ecocidal programme known as RANCH-BAND, the US Air Force sprayed more than 72 million litres of herbicides and defoliants. About 44 per cent of the forest land and 45 per cent of the agricultural land in southern Vietnam were sprayed at least once. As a result, about 150,000 hectares of forest cover were destroyed, and most of the mangrove forests on the coast were ruined. In spite of tremendous post-war restorative efforts Vietnam still faces a very difficult situation in this respect.

To mark the World Environment Day (June 5) and the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Vietnam State Commission for Science and Technology has organized, in cooperation with various scientific bodies and localities, practical activities for environment protection. Seminars have been held on the protection of forests and water sources, on fighting pollution by industrial waste, on environment hygiene and disease prevention, and related themes. Environmental protection committees have been founded in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Haiphong, and in the provinces of Ben Tre, Lai Chau, Vinh Phu and Ha Nam Ninh. These bodies review the work done in the protection of the environment and in the use of natural resources. They also

analyse failures and work out corrective steps. Major construction projects have been scrutinized to make sure that they would cause no environmental problems. In Hanoi, a mass movement has been going on for several years now for the improvement of the environment, for cleanliness and orderliness. An Environmental Protection City Committee was set up on May 25, 1987, following a decision of the Municipal People's Committee. The committee's chairman is Professor Truong Tung, a deputy-mayor.

On the artistic side, World Environment Day activities included a poster competition and a cartoon competition jointly sponsored by the State Commission for Science and Technology, the paper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan* (People's Army) and the Association of painters and sculptors. The former, the second so far (the first took place in 1982), was held from Feb. 24 to April 24, and the latter, the first of its kind, lasted from March 10 to April 20. They drew the participation of professionals and amateurs alike from 30 cities and provinces, the oldest in their eighties, the youngest in their early teens. A number of entries came from overseas Vietnamese. Of the 190 posters (by 105 authors) and the 880 cartoons (by 165 participants) 22 won prizes. First prizes went to the poster entitled "Ecological Balance Helps Bring Plentiful Food" by Pham Van Tu of the Hanoi Medical College, and to the cartoon entitled "The Forest Lord" by Ha Xuan Nong of Ho Chi Minh City. A prize was given to Tri Tue, the most prolific participant, who contributed as many as 58 cartoons. Two hundred of the entries were selected for an exhibition held immediately afterward.

In the struggle against the deterioration of the environment, the authorities, while raising the alarm, have been taking practical steps. Environment protection and the rational use of natural resources constitute a national policy and a part of the strategy for socio-economic development on both the national and regional scale.

A State-sponsored research project codenamed 50-02 is under way. Ministerial and departmental projects are also being conducted to determine the degree of pollution and deterioration of resources in the central and northwestern highlands, the Mekong River delta in the south, and on the coast, and to find suitable remedies. An overall strategy is being elaborated.

Besides, Vietnam will step up cooperation with such international bodies as UNEP, ESCAP, IUCN, UNICEF, WAB, WWF and other world organizations.

NGUYEN MAI SON

AN IMPORTANT...

(Continued from page 6)

Union led to complete agreement on international problems of mutual concern. Vietnam fully supports the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, which are a manifestation of new political thinking in the present international context and aim at repelling the danger of nuclear war and consolidating peace and security in the world. The two sides will do their utmost to check the dangerous trend in the present world situation, put an end to the arms race, and prevent its introduction into outer space.

Regional problems of Asia and the Pacific occupied a particularly important place in the talks. The two sides emphasized their wish to turn the region into one of peace, stability, goodneighbourly relations, and cooperation on the basis of common efforts by all countries in it.

In the Joint Statement, the Soviet Union proclaims its support for the constructive line and the initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which are aimed at building a healthy political atmosphere in the region, and promoting friendly relations with ASEAN and other countries.

With regard to a solution for the Kampuchea issue, both Vietnam and the Soviet Union support a process involving a national and an international side. They support the line of national reconciliation advocated by the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and hold that such a line will satisfy the vital interests of the Kampuchean people and ensure for them the right to decide their own destiny. Vietnam and the Soviet Union hold that in the search for a political solution to international aspects of the Kampuchea issue, account must be taken of regional realities, with the participation in one form or another of all parties concerned. Vietnam and the Soviet Union resolutely support the return to the People's Republic of Kampuchea of its legitimate seat at the United Nations and other international agencies.

Both sides stressed their wish for the normalization and improvement of relations with the Chinese People's Republic, regarding this as an active and important element for consolidating stability in Asia and in international life. The Soviet Union expressed support for the initiative taken by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in proclaiming its oft-repeated readiness to engage in negotiations with the Chinese side "at any time, any level, and any place" with a view to an early solution to present litigations.

In all other problems, both global and regional, Vietnam and the Soviet Union made responsible proposals aimed at correct and fair solutions.

Time will bear out the fact that the talks between Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrade M. S. Gorbachev constitute a political event of major significance for the two countries, marking a new qualitative development in Vietnam - Soviet cooperation, in the interest of the socialist community, and of peace and security in the region and in the world. ●

SPINSTERHOOD: A SOCIAL PROBLEM BEING DEALT WITH

Women now account for 46% of the total number of factory and office workers in the whole country. Their number is in the neighbourhood of 1.7 million. They work mostly in agriculture, forestry, light industry, and in road and bridge construction sites. Although men and women occupy almost equal proportions of the workforce, distribution is uneven in various regions and branches. Moreover, the war has left tens of thousands of young widows. All this has led to a serious social problem: many women are now past the common age for marrying, indeed seem unlikely ever to find a marriage partner. Quite a few have had children out of wedlock.

Thus, in seven forestry enterprises, more than 350 women have remained single past the age of 30. In the 4th transport trust under the Ministry of Communications and Transport, out of a total of 4,272 women employees, 570 are still single past the age of 30 and of them 228 have had children out of wedlock. At the Vinh Phu textile mill, of whose women employees 1,300 are single, 131 children have been born out of wedlock to 125 of them.

Those figures picked at random reflect an outstanding social problem.

In many places — logging camps, State farms, road construction sites, forestry stations... — with a large female workforce, working conditions are quite hard: inclement weather, poor food, bad clothing, lack of books, journals and film shows, little contact with the outside world, lack of entertainment, etc.

For these reasons women workers and employees suffer from loneliness, culminating in veritable "emotional crises" and often leading to declining physical health and a pessimistic view of life. Some feel they must have a child, and care little who is to be its father! But the tragedy does not end there.

In a letter to the journal *Lao Dong* (Labour), organ of the Federation of Trade Unions, Nguyen Thi Q., an employee of the S. Company in Bac Thai province, wrote:

"I am 35, unmarried, in poor health. I wanted to have a child. My friends knew it. The trade union knew it. They all sympathized with me. A man, an old friend, gave me the necessary help and I became pregnant. When he learned of it, the manager reacted very unfavourably and gave me a choice between two alternatives: either I shall have an abortion and in this case shall be allowed to keep my job. He promised that when I eventually retire for reason of age or health, the company would look after me; or, if I refuse, I shall lose my present position. I shall receive a warning and this shall be put in my record. Then I shall be shifted to another department, if its head agrees to accept me. If not, I shall be dismissed purely and simply."

Nguyen Thi Q. refused to have an abortion. The trade union took her side and successfully defended her interests.

Her case was not an uncommon one. And in quite a few cases the management showed themselves to be callous and unfeeling. The "guilty" women were threatened with demotion, dismissal, given a shortened maternity leave... Some saw their babies deprived of a... birth certificate.

Fortunately, times have changed. People have gradually come to be assessed mostly on the merit of their contribution to society, to the common good, on the quality and efficiency of their work. In cases such as those related above, the women are no longer accused of immorality and similar crimes! There is sympathy for their situation, and comprehension of the circumstances leading to it.

In any event, this is a social problem and it must be coped with. How? At the 4th Transport Trust under the Ministry of Communications, opportunity for social contact with people working in enterprises where men are in majority is enhanced; units with a majority of women workers are twinned with army or geological-survey units, which consist mostly of men. Annual leaves for women are lengthened. Many are shifted to more favourable environments (e.g. from the highlands to the plains). Others are sent to refresher professional courses.

With regard to children born out of wedlock, they enjoy all the rights of legitimate ones: they may go to the company's creche and kindergarten, and receive all statutory allowances. Their mothers are no longer threatened with demotion or dismissal, are allotted housing space, and wherever possible, a plot of land on which to raise crops or poultry...

Future State socio-economic planning must take the problem into account. There must be a certain balance in the proportions of men and women working in various branches, regions, and wherever possible, enterprises.

HANG THANG

HANOI

Unlike other capitals in the world, Hanoi has no skyscrapers and its streets are not crowded with long lines of motor vehicles.

It is a city with nearly one thousand years of history and has borne successive names along the centuries: Thang Long, Dong Do...

Hanoi is 2,139 square kilometres in area. The Red River, the largest in Vietnam, flows past it, spanned by three bridges: Long Bien, Thang Long and Chuong Duong.

Lying in the tropical zone, Hanoi is called the Green City by foreign visitors. The yearly average temperature is 23.4°C. Four seasons succeed one another. A warm spring with a light drizzle and blooming flowers of many kinds. A hot rainy and rather damp summer. A cool autumn with a serene blue sky and falling leaves, a season for poets. A cold and dry winter.

The best season for tourism is from October to next April. In these months, the average temperature is 20°C with almost no rain. Vietnam's traditional Lunar New Year Festival (Tet) falls some time in January or February, depending on the year. The holding of the *Tet* flower market (where only flowers and ornamental plants are sold) is a cultural event in the city. *Tet* is a good occasion for foreign visitors to get acquainted with some interesting Vietnamese habits and customs. The sound of fire-crackers on the eve of the New Year will urge them to leave hotel rooms and mingle with the strolling crowds. They will taste *banh chung*, a *Tet* delicacy made of glutinous rice, stuffed with beans, pork, wrapped in *zong* leaves, and boiled for several hours over a wood fire.

In these Spring days, they might like to visit the neighbouring countryside and attend folk festivals: at Dong Ky where many kinds of fire-crackers are set off; at Lim where young men and women engage in singing contests... Popular games like cock-fighting, bird releasing, swinging... will acquaint them with some aspects of Vietnamese traditional entertainment.

Stupa at the Lien Phai pagoda.

Many ancient architectural works are still preserved in Hanoi: the One-pillar pagoda shaped like a lotus, the Kim Lien pagoda, the Quan Thanh temple. The Temple of Literature built in 1070 was a school for princes and sons of Court dignitaries and the first university of Vietnam. There, stone stelae record the names of doctors of literature, winners of literary competitions held several centuries ago. Situated about 50km from the city, Tay Phuong pagoda is a favourite with foreign tourists. It contains nearly 100 large wooden statues of Buddhist deities, each with characteristic features, all quivering with life.

Another historic spot worthy of interest is Co Loa citadel (16km north of Hanoi), the second capital of ancient Vietnam, built in the 3rd century B.C. The Pearl Well there is connected with a moving love story, that of Princess My Chau.

As one goes around Hanoi, one will realize that many places in this quiet city hold significant places in history.

The Mausoleum of President Ho Chi Minh, the venerated leader of the Vietnamese people, stands in Ba Dinh square. It is a majestic structure, which is also a symbol of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship.

The Sword lake (or Lake of the Restored Sword) is like a large mirror in the midst of the city. Legend has it that Le Loi, the national hero who drove out the Chinese Ming occupiers and founded the Le dynasty in the 15th century once took a pleasure trip on the lake. All of a sudden, a huge golden tortoise genie emerged from the waters and asked the king to give back the divine sword which he, the genie, had lent him to fight the invaders. The 500-ha West Lake is separated from Lake Truc Bach by a road lined with willows and flames of the forest. At one end of the road stands the Quan Thanh temple. A raised pathway leads to the Tran Quoc pagoda. After a spell of boating one may like to taste shrimp fritters in a charming little stall by Lake Truc Bach. The shrimps, as a rule, are freshly caught from the lake.

Hanoi people are hospitable gourmets. They like to treat visitors to traditional Vietnamese dishes like *nem* (fried meat rolls), *gio* (fresh pork pounded and boiled), *cha ca* (broiled fish), etc., as well as many kinds of pastry. Beautiful articles made by skilled craftsmen are available in gift shops: bamboo and rattan basketry, lacquerware, lace, embroidery, articles inlaid with mother-of-pearl, articles made with the shell of hawksbill, etc.

Vietnam Tourism has 16 sightseeing programmes for foreign tourists. You may contact its head office at this address:

VIETNAM TOURISM

54, Nguyen Du Street, Hanoi, SRV.

Tel: 55693 — 54674

Telex: 4629 Tourism VT

BICH SAN

On the bank of the Sword Lake.

Photos: VN TOURISM

Illustration by LE DUNG

BUN CHA, A POPULAR DELICACY

An acquaintance of mine, Mr Ho Xuan Lan, 74, a Vietnamese resident in France, has recently returned to Vietnam, where he plans to spend the last years of his life. I have been told that on the day following his arrival in Hanoi, he went to visit a few particularly beloved beauty spots — the lotus-shaped One-Pillar Pagoda and the Ngoc Son temple on the Lake of the Restored Sword — and then invited a few close friends to a small restaurant serving *bun cha*, a delicacy consisting of rice vermicelli and grilled pork, dipped in fish sauce and eaten with green salad. On that occasion, he recalled a charming little book written by Thach Lam nearly half a century ago, in which the author sings the praise of certain popular foods sold by Hanoi street vendors and small restaurants, among them *bun cha*. He also said that his taste for the food is shared by many overseas Vietnamese he knows, including noted gourmets.

Bun cha is both tasty and cheap, and so is very popular with Hanoi people. However, one should not stuff oneself with it. At most one will eat about 200 grammes of vermicelli, a few bits of grilled pork and some green vegetables, dipped in sweet-sour-pungent *nuoc mam*. In that, my opinion is upheld by Dr Slavitski, the noted Czechoslovak gastronome.

Special rice vermicelli for *bun cha* used to be prepared in Phu Do, a village in the suburbs of Hanoi. It is made from a special mixture of several kinds of rice flour, each with its own fortes and weaknesses: *tam thom*, for instance, is fragrant but rather insipid according to connoisseurs, and so *tam xoan* and *gie cai* have to be added, for better flavour and texture.

Pork, neither too lean nor too fat, is cut into thin slices and soaked for some time in *nuoc mam* seasoned with pepper, sugar, and chopped shallot. Then it is held between strips of bamboo over a charcoal fire until it is somewhat overdone at the edge. By then a wonderfully appetizing smell will have emanated from it.

The green vegetables eaten with *bun cha* depend on the season: lettuce in winter, bindweed cut into thin curling strips in summer, and various kinds of mint and other aromatic leaves.

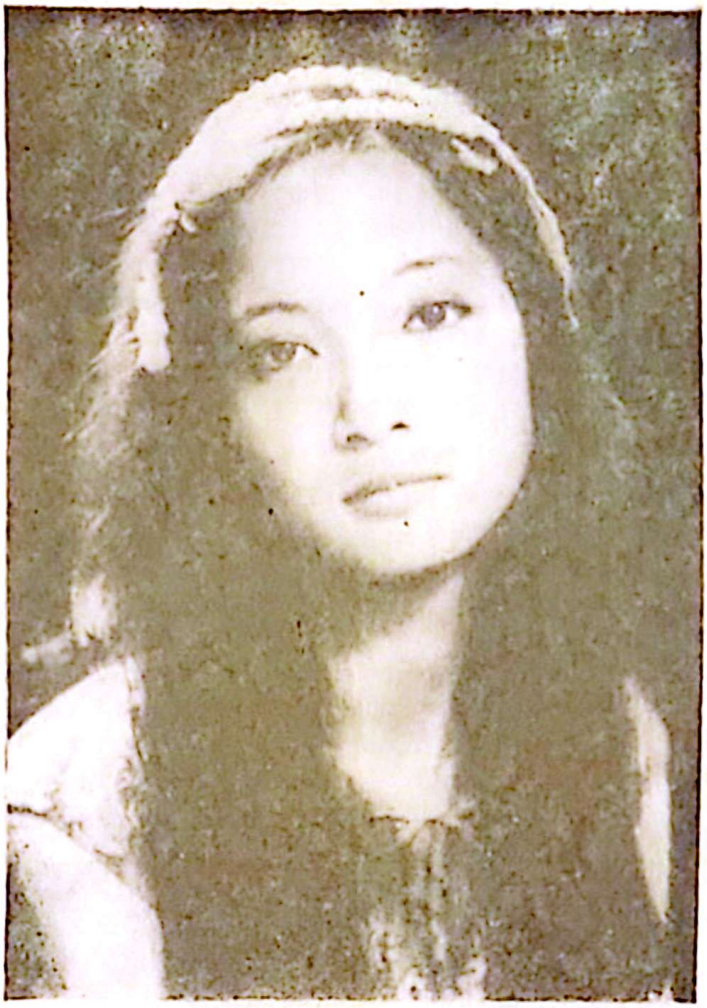
Preparation of the sauce requires special care: the main ingredient is *nuoc mam*, the Vietnamese fish brine, preferably the kind called Ke Do, to which are added varying doses of vinegar, sugar, pepper (black and red), so that it is at the same time salty (not too much), sweet, sour, and pungent...

I would like to add that a foreign visitor to Hanoi who hasn't tasted *bun cha* has indeed missed something. In this, my opinion is upheld by that of Dr Slavitski, a gastronome friend of mine.

LY KHAC CUNG

CamScanner

INTERVIEW WITH A YOUNG STAGE ARTISTE



Of her 24 years Le Khanh, of the Tuoi Tre *(Youth) Theatre, has spent nine on the stage, playing a variety of roles, among them Simma, a country girl, in the Soviet play* Vao Doi *(Coming of Age); Thuy, a teacher, in* Mua Ha Cuoi Cung *(The Last Summer); Tam, the Vietnamese Cinderella, in* Tam Cam; *Nina, in* Nguoi Con Trai Ca *(The Eldest Son), another Soviet play; Juliet, in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet; Joan of Arc, in the French play* L'Alouette *(The Skylark); and Lua, in* Loi Noi Doi Cuoi Cung *(The Last Lie).*

Out of stage, Le Khanh is very maidenlike — gentle, kind, simple-mannered.

Question: How did you choose your career? Were you influenced by your parents, themselves well-known artistes of the stage?

Answer: I chose it myself. My parents did not try to influence me in any way. When I was 15, I signed up for a film. A few days later, I heard of a recruitment drive by the management of *Tuoi Tre*. My mother went with me to the tests, but she didn't give me a hint as to how best to take them. After the tests she didn't even ask how well or how badly I had done. The following month, when we were shooting on location in *Khe Sanh*, I got a note from *Tuoi Tre* saying that I had passed all the tests... In all the three years of my subsequent apprenticeship, my parents attended every play in which I had a role but never said a word of praise in my presence. My sisters Van and Vy were treated in the same way. Contrary to what you may think, our parents have never tried to coach us. In fact, acting cannot be taught just by telling you how to do this or that. Besides we don't work with the same companies: Father (Tran Tien) is with the Central Theatre, Mother (Le Mai) with the Hanoi Dramatic Troupe, my older sister (Le Van) with the Opera and Ballet Theatre, while my younger sister (Le Vy) has just joined the Central Variety Troupe. The only thing we try to communicate to one another is a sense of dedication and discipline.

In my first role I played a country girl in *Hoang Tu Hoc Nghe* (The Royal Apprentice). I was only 16 then, and "love" was something I felt rather intimidated by. To make matters worse, my partner was Duc Trong whom, ordinarily, I would address as "Uncle". I got stuck many times during rehearsals, too shy to go on. Director Pham Thanh had to send all lookers-on away until I was "broken to the rein". My luck was that my natural shyness actually befitted the character I was interpreting.

Question: Which roles do you like best?

Answer: Tam, Juliet and Joan of Arc. They're completely different characters. Of course, it's an advantage to play a role that suits your own tem-

perament. But then you'll have to be careful to avoid uniformity in interpretation. That is in fact what the public dislikes most. I like Tam and Lua for their candour and simplicity. As for Juliet, she's known to the whole world. Playing her is thus made all the more difficult and intimidating. Only after about two hundred performances did I screw up enough courage to watch a film adaptation of the play. Of course there's a big difference between a play as performed on the stage and an adaptation for the screen. But still I felt it had been rather daring of me to have accepted the role.

Question: What about Joan of Arc?

Answer: Playing Joan gave me a great deal of pleasure. I like the role very much. I was at first intimidated by it, the more so as Jean Claude Bourbeau had come all the way from France to direct the play. This is an important role. Joan is present on the stage for hours on end. Failure in the interpretation of Joan would mean failure for the play. As you know, Joan appreared only for a brief moment in the history of France. She led an army to battle when she was 17, and she died at the age of 19. But she left a lasting mark on history. She is revered by the French people and admired by the whole of mankind. Her life has been the theme of many films, plays, ballets and books. Joan was an extraordinary character. In action she behaved like a man, one who was quick of mind, and resolute. She led her troops from one victory to another, and people looked up to her with the respect reserved for a saint. Yet, at other moments Joan was just a gentle, dreamy maiden. Another difficulty with playing the role is the frequent shifts from reality to unreality. You remember the scene in which an angel speaks to Joan? Now, about the rehearsals. That was in July, the hottest month in Hanoi. We worked morning, afternoon and evening, and material conditions, food in particular, left much to be desired. However, the cast and the French director got along very well. Jean Claude Bourbeau was a gentleman and a hard worker. He insisted on sharing our meals. He encouraged us and helped us discover ourselves. Later I learned that he had at first intended the part for another actress. The two casts went on rehearsing and he began to take better notice of me. Then the play was performed in public and was an immediate success. The play had wit in it, French wit, but was also very Vietnamese. I must say that Jean Claude Bourbeau contributed a great part to our success. He didn't keep strictly to the script, but tried to bring out whatever strong points the cast had. For my part I was very happy to play a role that was so completely different from those I had had. It's not for me to say how successful I was, but I can affirm that I put all my heart in the role. I don't know if any of my future roles can be so difficult, so demanding. Indeed, acting Joan of Arc was the best time I ever had with the theatre.

LE KHANH *in the play "The Skylark".*

Question: What are your plans now?

Answer: I've been fortunate enough to be given such important parts. Yet, because of them, I'll have to strive all the harder in future. This profession is very demanding. I'm glad that I rather like the pressure of work and am eager for new roles. It must be very sad if one is no longer so intensely interested in one's work.

THUY LIEU

(*Thanh Nien* (Youth) magazine, Ho chi Minh City)

KAMPUCHEA: NINTH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC

(Travel notes)

Sugar palms.

Photo : VU HUYEN

Phnom Penh in April. A scorching sun. A gust of wind now and then, as hot as a blast from a furnace. In the glare, the flowers looked even more gorgeous — scarlet flames-of-the-forest along the road from Pochentong Airport; purple wild guava lining Toul Samouth Boulevard, formerly Norodom Boulevard; ivory-white frangipani glimpsed in gardens fronting pagodas and villas; and red and purple bougainvillea forming a thick canopy over the entrance to the Chamcar Mon Palace. Phnom Penh was a rather small but charming city.

The Kampuchean capital became unusually animated at the approach of Chhnam Thmei, the Khmer New Year. Roads, especially near markets, were clogged with cars, motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians. Pedicabs passed on which were perched women — two, even three per vehicle — dressed in colourful *sarongs* and surrounded by bulging shopping bags. At a small square near Wath Phnom Hotel where we were staying, foods were stacked on a row of tables for mendicant monks.

On the threshold of the Year of the Rabbit

In the Khmer folklore the Rabbit is an intelligent and resourceful animal, the Master of the Jungle, the Defender of Justice. People, therefore, were warmly welcoming the Year of the Rabbit, expecting it to bring them happiness and luck.

The Khmer celebrate the New Year with uninhibited joy, whether at home or in the streets. But it is at places of worship that their pleasure is most visible. On New Year's Day, we made a tour of Phnom Penh's principal pagodas. The air was filled with the scents of burning joss-sticks and flowers. It was an exhilarating sight and we realized that the Khmer go to pagodas not only to worship Buddha and offer foods to the monks, but also to meet friends and to pay homage to defunct parents and relatives whose cremated remains are kept in stupas there.

Most worshipers were women, all beautifully dressed: richly embroidered blouses, bejewelled necks and arms with gems of many hues in particular. Their presence added colour and animation to the general rejoicing. People brought foods which they laid on trestle tables to be eaten at midday. For worshipers to have a meal in common at a pagoda on New Year's Day is believed to bring luck.

For three days, each afternoon, the esplanade on the bank of the Tonle Bassac and the park in front of the former Royal Palace were thronged with young people. Thousands of others converged on a new recreation centre on Lake Beng Kâk. This public park, which cost the municipal authorities more than 1 million *riels* to build, had just been inaugurated. Its biggest attractions were the boat races, each canoe propelled by as many as twenty paddlers, and cart races, the ox-carts being as elaborately decorated as for a wedding procession. At club houses, government offices, schools and neighbourhood centres, people danced far into the night. They dance the graceful *lam thon*, also very popular in Laos, the gently swaying *saravan*, then the animated *rambach*, and many other dances.

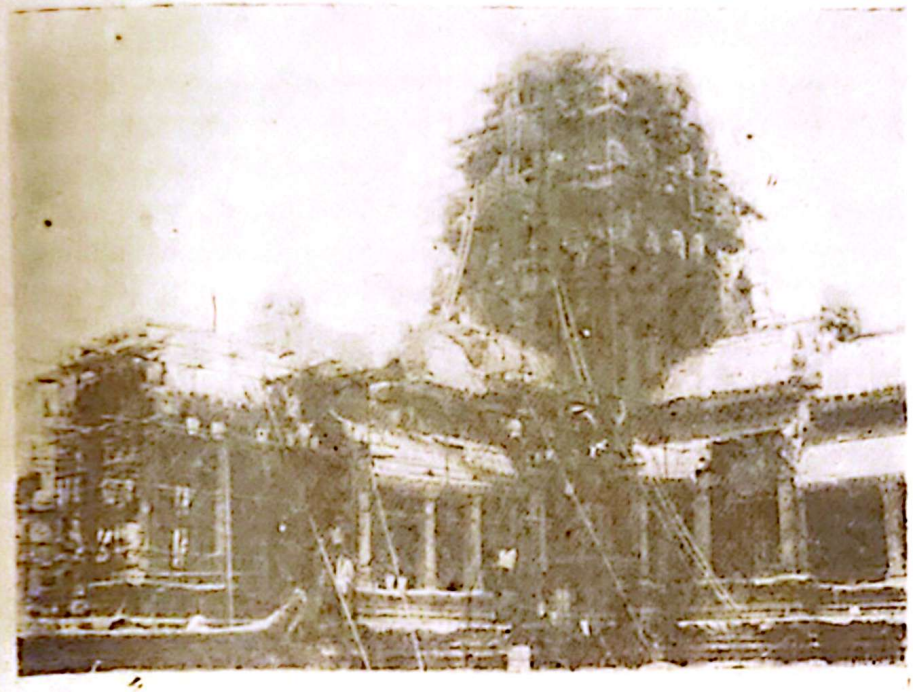
While the sugar palm is an essential feature of the Kampuchean landscape, even casual visitors will be impressed by Khmer architecture, characterized by the gracefully curved roof suggestive of the tail of the mythical Naja. The Khmer are good architects. Their artistry is noted not only in the larger and more elaborate buildings, but also in quite simple constructions — a wooden watch tower, a lone brick storehouse among the fields, even temporary constructions may be graced with a curved roof, in the traditional Khmer style. Mention should also be made of the *sampot* — the long skirt worn by Khmer women, preferably cut from dark-coloured material, the darker the better, because that is a mark of good taste and also because this will set off the bright-coloured tight-fitting shirt. Although jeans are in fashion now, of which a girl may have several pairs in her wardrobe, the *sampot* remains a favourite for everyday wear and is a must on festive occasions, for old ladies and schoolgirls alike.

Phnom Penh on the first days of the new year was a striking illustration of the revival of the country. People gave full expression to their love of life, without inhibition. To share their joy we joined, rather clumsily, a crowd of *lam thon* dancers.

April in Kampuchea is a hot month, perhaps the hottest in the year. However absorbed you are, you cannot help feeling the heat. And suddenly we saw April 1975 as in a flashback: in the same sweltering heat, the entire population of Phnom Penh — the "New People" — were driven ruthlessly from the city in an exodus to be made on foot along sun-baked roads. Then I remembered what a Kampuchean journalist had told me about a new tradition in his family: for nine years now after the New Year celebrations, he and his folks would gather together, to reminisce about the terrible days of April 1975 when Pol Pot troops were on a rampage in the city. They would evoke every stage of the exodus, day by day, hour by hour, remembering each tragic incident and each death among friends and relatives. Many other families have been doing the same. The past, with its traumatic experiences, is still part of the present. Choeung Ek, an area just outside Phnom Penh, has been made into an outdoor museum. There piles of human skulls lie beside the gaping mouths of excavated mass graves. The empty eye-sockets have a dazed and reproachful look.

Preservation of the national soul

Alighting from the plane and stepping on the tarmac at Siem Reap airfield we again came into



Restoring Angkor's front entrance.
Photo: TAY YOUNG

blinding sunshine. The dry season was particularly severe this year. Usually the first rains would have come soon after the New Year. This year, however, the fields remained in a dried-up, cracked state. Without water, nothing could be planted as yet. Despite the proximity of Lake Tonle Sap, the peasants were helpless: there was no irrigation channel to bring water to the fields. Along the road to Angkor Wat we saw large patches of sun-blasted vegetation.

Angkor, one of the wonders of the world, had virtually been forgotten by the Khmer when it was re-discovered by a Frenchman. Probably that oblivion was due to the lack of recorded history in ancient Kampuchea and to the successive wars that had driven the Khmer east. Anyway, it is no exaggeration to say that you have not seen Kampuchea if you have not visited Angkor. Indeed, only Angkor will give one an adequate idea of the soul and the great gifts of this nation. During a show at Tonle Bassac Theatre in Phnom Penh, spectators whooped with joy when an Apsara Dance was announced. At the time I was somewhat surprised by such enthusiasm. Later, at the home of a friend in the city, I was told one of the many stories about Apsara. This heavenly maiden, so the story goes, fell in love with a mortal, against divine law. So, instead of having to return to heaven, she asked to be turned into stone and stay on Earth for ever. At Angkor hundreds of Apsaras are carved in stone. Their full breasts and faint smiles enliven this gigantic stone temple. The Apsara smile — the Khmer smile — has captivated many Orientalists, just as the enigmatic smile of Mona Lisa has captured the imagination of many generations in the West.

The temple, despite restoration in the early thirties, showed great ravage by time. We learned that the Kampuchean Government has been trying to repair it, with India's assistance. The work has already begun, and we saw Khmer working under the guidance of Indian experts. Water was being lifted bucket by bucket up the scaffoldings. Obviously the Government cares a great deal for this precious national legacy. In Phnom Penh, we saw Polish experts working side by side with Khmer artists in restoring the murals and frescoes of the Silver Temple in the compound of the former Royal Palace, extensively damaged both by the passage of time and by Pol Pot vandals. The interior of the Museum of Art and Archaeology nearby was also undergoing repair.

Not only a revival

Children can be seen in large numbers in remote rural places as well as in Phnom Penh.

Demographically, the revival process can be regarded as completed. It is even time to think of family planning to help overcome the very serious socio-economic consequences of the Pol Pot regime. Caring for the present population of 7.7 million sets very heavy tasks to the new Government. Food production was given priority at the Fifth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea held in October 1985. Annual rice output has shown an increase thanks to high-yield varieties supplied by

Vietnam and various international organizations. Yet, success is still limited because poor irrigation allows only one crop to be grown each year. The present output, although sufficient to feed the population, is far from meeting the demands of the national economy as a whole. In rubber production, forestry and fishery — the three other priority areas — fairly good progress was made in 1986. In particular, the production of dried latex was 13 per cent above the planned target.

The Kampuchean Government, despite great economic difficulties, has made considerable efforts on the socio-cultural plane. One major goal is the complete eradication of illiteracy by the end of this year. Although school buildings and equipment are as yet insufficient and flimsy, there is a primary school for each village. In villages inhabited by Muslim Cham we visited, classes were also held to teach the Cham language and the Koran. In 1986-1987, school enrolment totalled 1.9 million, 80 per cent of school-age children and almost double the peak figure in Sihanouk's time, about 1 million.

Like education, health care has been extended to the villages, something unheard of under the previous regimes. Of course, there is a great shortage of both personnel and medicines, and local medical services are but poorly equipped. A situation not hard to understand if one recalls that eight years ago Kampuchea had to start from scratch. The 349 doctors and 208 pharmacists serving at present are

Girl students of the Phnom Penh Teachers' College.
Photo: VU HUYEN

too few in face of the national demand, yet, if one remembers that only 33 doctors and 26 pharmacists survived Pol Pot genocide, they represent a significant achievement. The medical service has set for itself two main objectives — personnel training and disease prevention. By the end of 1990, all the 2 million children in Kampuchea will have been vaccinated. Those under one year of age are receiving special attention.

International assistance plays an important role in Kampuchea's medical programme. In this regard, Vietnam and the Soviet Union take the lead, followed by Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, France and Algeria. UNICEF is financing the construction of wells in the countryside, in an effort to help solve the critical problem of drinking water supply in the dry season.

"This is my country"

I had a pleasant encounter in Phnom Penh. My new acquaintance was May Hieng, a middle-aged electronic technician with a friendly face and candid eyes. We were sitting in the lobby of White Hotel on Achar Mean Boulevard, where Mr Hieng was staying with nine other overseas Khmer who, like him, had come home from France for the New Year. Mr Hieng told me that this was his second visit to his homeland. Back to France from his first visit in 1985, Mr Hieng had told the Kampuchean community in that country of the difficulties Kampuchea was encountering in reconstruction. Thereafter money had been collected for the construction of a school and for assistance to orphans, and here Mr Hieng was back in Phnom Penh with the sum.

He took a pen from his pocket and drew a sketch of the school he and his friends intended to help build in Dangkor district, Kandal province. The 15-room building, costing an estimated 1.2 million *riels*, would be completed by 1988.

Mr Hieng and his friends were also bringing a considerable quantity of medicines for the various orphanages, and a sum of money as a New Year gift to the children. Asked what had prompted him to engage in such activities, he said, "This is my country, and I trust the present Government. I'll be back again before the end of this year to follow the construction of the school."

I asked Mr Hieng how his family had fared under Pol Pot. "I lost my wife, a younger brother, four brothers-in-law, and a nephew," he said with great sadness.

My next question was about his impression of Kampuchea. My new friend said: "People have celebrated the New Year in a grand way, in great joy and complete security. We're particularly impressed by the leniency shown by the Government to those former Pol Pot followers who have left enemy ranks. This is a very good policy. It has allowed more than 32,000 people to return to a normal life with their families. Under the previous regimes, people who had been in the opposition were given the worst kind of treatment, including imprisonment and beating."

I wondered how many Khmer nationals living in France had visited Kampuchea since liberation.

"About 500, and many more will follow," he said.

* * *

Eight years have gone by and Kampuchea, a "ghost country" has come back to life since "Zero". The young republic has yet to overcome many difficulties but, like a fully-assembled machine, it is functioning effectively. And it would work even better were it not for interference by hostile outside forces.

The disaster caused by Pol Pot was a horrible one, and the mind still is dazed by the sufferings and losses of this nation. Overnight everything was destroyed — education, medical service, the money system, city life, social strata. Almost one-third of the population was wiped out. In proportion to their populations, France and the United States, would have lost 18 million and 70 million lives respectively.

These terrible wounds must be healed and the country must be rebuilt. To do so the Kampucheans must have peace and security. Therefore, any scheme to bring about upheavals in Kampuchea will only increase the danger of a new disaster and will be a crime against this small nation of talented and gentle people who created one of the wonders of the world — Angkor.

Phnom Penh, April 1987
PHUONG ANH

CHRONOLOGY • CHRONOLOGY

(15 May — 14 June)

MAY

15. Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach tells the Polish news agency (PAP) correspondent in Hanoi: "We warmly welcome and fully support the good-willed peace initiative made on 8 May 1987 by W. Jaruzelski, First Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party".

15 — 17. A CPV delegation led by Dang Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee, Head of the State Commission for Science and Technology, attends the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin.

18 — 21. Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, pays an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union (See article on page 5).

19. *Hanoi:* Opening of the second national Arts and Crafts Fair at the Giang Vo Exhibition Centre. (See article on page 1).

— *Hanoi:* Opening of the International Exhibition of Paintings and Graphic Arts, Hanoi 1987 (See article on page 4).

18 — 20. *Hanoi:* Holding of the Sixth National Congress of Vietnamese Women. (See article on page 1).

22. *Hanoi:* Signing of a protocol on goods exchange and payments for 1987 between Vietnam and Cuba.

22 — 26. *Warsaw:* Holding of the eleventh session of the Poland — Vietnam Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

24 — 25. *Haiphong:* Holding of an Asian-Pacific Seminar on "The Role of Working Women in Socio-Economic Development" with the participation of 23 trade union delegations from 15 countries.

25. *Hanoi:* The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee highly appreciates the results of the talks held between General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev during Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union.

25 — 26. Nearly 700,000 basic general education pupils sit for final examinations for the 1986-1987 school-year.

26. *Hanoi:* The Council of State holds a regular meeting.

27 — 29. An economic delegation of the Swedish Government headed by Tom Tscherning, Assistant Foreign Minister, visits Vietnam. On this occasion, Vietnam and Sweden signed several agreements and documents, under which Sweden will extend to Vietnam a non-refundable aid of 600 million *krone* for the implementation of cooperation projects on development agreed upon between the two sides.

28. *Hanoi:* The Vietnamese Episcopal Council holds its eighth meeting. The attendants are cordially received by General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh.

29 — 30. More than 271,000 secondary general education pupils throughout the country sit for final examinations for the 1986-1987 academic year.

29 May — 3 June: A Czechoslovak foreign ministry delegation led by Roman Narozny, Vice-Foreign Minister visits Vietnam. The two sides sign a plan on cultural, educational and social cooperation for the 1986-1990 period, and an agreement on the setting up of cultural and information centres in Prague and Ho Chi Minh City.

JUNE

3. *Nha Trang:* Reception of a 150,190-mark gift of medical equipments and medicines from the West Berlin — Vietnam Friendship Association and the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin.

4. Closing of the 1987 national volleyball championship, Division A1. For men: the Chemical Workers' team (Ho Chi Minh City), the Printing Enterprise No. 2 team (Ho Chi Minh City), and the Army Sports and Physical Culture Club rank first, second and third respectively. For women: the Signal Corps team, the Hai Phong Footwear Enterprise team and the Quang Ninh Coal Mine team rank first, second and third respectively.

5. *Hanoi:* The Soviet Embassy in Vietnam awards prizes to 16 Vietnamese painters who won in the fourth international contest of political posters on the theme "For Peace and Social Progress". Painter Pham Van Tu was awarded the second prize.

— *Nghia Binh province:* Holding of the Sixteenth Bach Dang Swimming Competition. (See article on page 3)

7. Closing of the 1987 national Soccer Tournament, Division A1. Teams of the Army Sports and Physical Culture Club, the Quang Nam — Da Nang Workers and of An Giang rank first, second and third respectively.

8 — 9. A delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions led by Pham The Duyet, Secretary of the CPV Central Committee, President of the Federation, visits Kampuchea.

17. *Ho Chi Minh City:* Opening of the 25th (enlarged) session of the Provisional Mekong Committee, with the participation of 106 delegates from 26 countries and nine international organizations in the Mekong River area and around the world.

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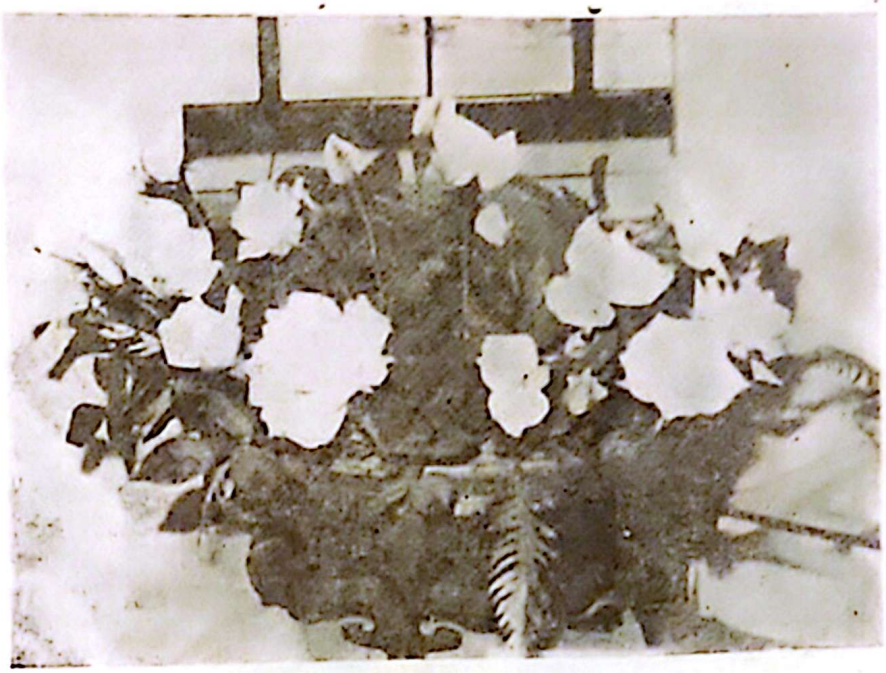
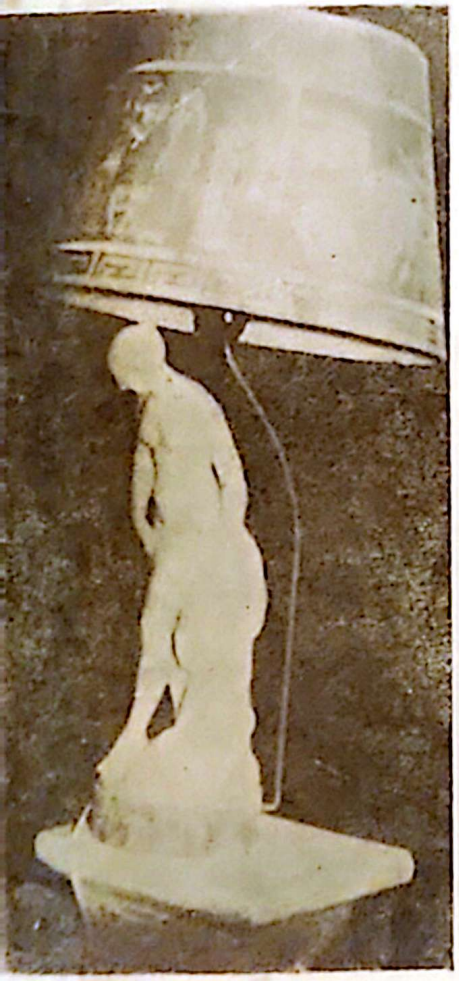
At the Second National Small – Scale Industry and Handicrafts Fair



● *Paper flowers at the Hanoi stand.*



● *Pottery figurines produced in Dong Nai province.*

● *Wooden collages made in Ho Chi Minh City.*

Photos: THU HA

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At the 1987 International Exhibition of Paintings and Graphic Arts held in Hanoi

• Young Mother, *oil painting by* LIELADASE *(USSR). Official prize.*

• Long Live Peace, *woodcut by* LE LAM

• Ancient Dance, *lacquer painting by* NGUYEN TU NGHIEM *(Vietnam). Official prize.*